

<b>Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Liaison to Planning Board) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Ceccacci (Sustainable Verona Liaison) <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Saltalamacchia (Vice Chair) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Plan Review) <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Kiernan (Alternate II) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Golan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor Kevin Ryan (Liaison from Town Council) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell		
	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>
1.	<b>Call to Order by Jess:</b> a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Role Call performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Public Comment Period:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Open Public Comment Period:</b> Jess; <b>Second:</b> Frank.</li> <li><b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE</li> <li>Christine McGrath introduced herself as a candidate for Town Council and wanted to attend all town related Commissions and Boards to get a understanding of each group.</li> <li>Period Closed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further questions or comments followed</li> <li>Public Comment closed.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Approval of March 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Jess</li> <li><b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Earth Day Clean-Up Plans: April 13, 2019 Grove Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frank is picking up 175 seedlings on Friday April 12.</li> <li>Jessica will ask Mr. Cavallo to ask Chuck for table, tools and supplies for clean-up collection</li> <li>The hours of Clean up are 9 to 11:30. Trees are first come first serve.</li> <li>Issue was raised about the litter left on Verona's sport's fields, Members agree that the teams should clean up after each of their practice sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frank gets seedlings 4/12/19.</li> <li>Chuck will drop off Table and tools and wheel barrow.</li> <li>Jess. Martin, Frank and Tim have volunteered to be present for the event</li> <li>Jess will bring tent, trees, waiver forms for participants.</li> <li>Jess to send email to Matt Cavallo about sport's fields and tree ordinance.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Updates:</b> <p><b>a) Rain Garden:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mike DeCarlo is awaiting further grant money information from the Federal Gov't. Trump Admin cut HUD money. He thinks that the Community Block Grant money for repaving the VCC driveways will present us with ample opportunity to create the rain garden, however installation likely delayed until next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Community Garden:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Neale is the lead on this project and Frank, liaison to Sustainable Verona, is keeping the VEC posted on new information. Letter of Intent is due in April and grant application is due in May. All will be submitted by Steve Neale.</li> <li>Overall construction could begin Fall 2019.</li> <li>Frank invites members to attend meetings at resident's home.</li> <li>Jess suggests larger venue for more community involvement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean will be the VEC point of contact on this project/Steve Neale and Mike DeCarlo for Township.</li> <li>Update when new information becomes available.</li> <li>Frank and Steve Neale are the points of contact on this project.</li> <li>Frank attends meetings at resident's home and will continue to update Commission.</li> <li>Mike D. may have new plans forthcoming.</li> <li>Update next meeting.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>c) Site Plan Review/Tree/ Stormwater Ordinances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site Plan, Stormwater, and Tree among other Ordinance drafts sent to Sean and Jessica are currently under review.</li> <li>○ Mike DeCarlo responded to Jess on the Tree Ordinance stating that he found most of it to be well written.</li> <li>○ Mike DeCarlo is conferring with Matt Cavallo to move these ordinances to the Council.</li> <li>○ Jess thinks the town needs a certified and or licensed tree expert for proper and unaffiliated tree health determination. The Commission doesn't think that a tree removal company, who stands to gain from removals, should be the township's expert.</li> <li>○ Stormwater, Site plan review and Electronic Site Plan submission ordinances still under Mike D's review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ordinance Drafts will be reviewed in an ongoing manner by VEC for further editing. Sean/Jess reviewing team.</li> <li>● All comments will be forwarded to Mike D. for his review and hopefully to be incorporated into the Ordinance</li> <li>● Progress updates have been requested.</li> <li>● Awaiting further response and updates from Mike DeCarlo.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) VEC Website:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mike A. is continuing his work on revamping the website.</li> <li>○ Once his mockup is complete he will present to the Commission and then to Steve Neale.</li> <li>○ We will need full approval by Manager Cavallo to move forward, at which point, the minimal funding (Michael suggested no more than \$50.00 per year) can then be submitted to the township for reimbursement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mike A. will continue working on Website mockup and keep us posted as to his soonest review date.</li> <li>● Mike A. and Sean will continue to upload Minutes and Agendas to current website.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Student Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess met with the High School Env. Club and Mrs. Haftel on 3/21/19.</li> <li>○ Students were very interested to attend meetings and found Saturdays to be the best day for participation in clean ups and projects. Some individuals said they were willing to attend afternoon projects i.e. helping with the installation and maintenance of the perennial garden at Grove Park.</li> <li>○ Students have SATs scheduled on the morning of June 1, 2019—which was to be our Peckman Cleanup date. The Commission will schedule it for June 8, 2019.</li> <li>○ An open invitation was offered to all students to attend our public meetings.</li> <li>○ Mrs. Haftel is thinking about adding attendance at one of our meetings as a requirement for her AP class.</li> <li>○ Some Students inquired about Capstone work with the Commission but they are required to perform 20 hours a week for Four weeks. Unfortunately, the Commission can't fulfill their requirements. Jess asked those students to see if Capstone would allow for a distribution of hours throughout a few different organizations. Sarah explained the Capstone Program to members of the Commission.</li> <li>○ Sean met with BSA Scout Troop 2 on 4/8/19 to introduce the scouts to the VEC and the activities and initiatives the VEC undertakes for Verona. The scouts are interested in participating in cleanup activities organized by the VEC and just ask that they be informed of future opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jess will continue to email the school system all events for inclusion in school newsletters.</li> <li>● Sean and Mike A. are maintaining contact with the Boy Scouts to inform them of volunteer opportunities.</li> <li>● Sean is also reaching out to the Girl Scouts.</li> <li>● Sarah emailed Gina Butler who runs OLL's youth program.</li> <li>● Jessica is going to follow up with Gina Butler.</li> <li>● Sarah has also contacted the Presbyterian Church youth group to invite them to our cleanups.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>f) Perennial Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess and Sarah put together a simple plan for the perennial garden to be installed at Grove Park.</li> <li>○ Sean will help with a CAD draft for presentation.</li> <li>○ The Shade Tree Commission has to approve all plantings on any publicly owned property and has responded with approval, pending a 'site plan' to review.</li> <li>○ The Commission has about \$2,000.00 in its trust account and expenses for the garden will come from these funds.</li> <li>○ Matt Cavallo agreed to have the town help prepare the site for planting with a backhoe and deliveries to the site.</li> <li>○ The site will be watered by the town each morning once the plantings are in place.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC Perennial Garden Plans, pending finalization by Sean and to present to Shade Tree Commission:</b> Jess; <b>Second:</b> Mike.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shade Tree Commission would like a simple plan for full approval of the garden.</li> <li>● Sean will help with scaled plan.</li> <li>● Sarah will help with mapping the plantings for Sean's plans.</li> <li>● Jess is hoping to present the plan to the Shade Tree Commission at their May meeting. She will email their Chair to ask if she may present upon plan finalization.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>g) Plastic Bag Ban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continued exchange of information will ensue to collect information and devise a practical proposal for implementation. There are a number of proposals being considered.</li> <li>○ Sean showed the town's power point presentation which revealed that all single-use carry out plastic bags would carry a 10-cent fee.</li> <li>○ No further updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Multi town plastic bag ban ordinances are in the works. Tony attended a meeting at Town Hall on 2/19/19.</li> <li>● Steve Neale is the lead on this and Tony will continue to attend follow up meetings.</li> <li>● Community members collecting signatures for a Bag Ban petition.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>h) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rutgers Wind Energy Symposium: May 8, 2019 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.</li> <li>○ EV Auto Show in Maplewood on April 27, 2019.</li> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Toy program being considered for Verona for donating gently used toys to needy families.</li> <li>○ NJ Health Communities Workshop here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-nj-healthy-communities-workshop-schedule-registration-54988111923">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-nj-healthy-communities-workshop-schedule-registration-54988111923</a></li> <li>○ SV members want to investigate more safe walking routes and encourage children to walk to school.</li> <li>○ Verona securing its first Electric Vehicle (EV) soon.</li> <li>○ Verona adding an EV charging station in front of Town Hall.</li> <li>○ The Sustainable Essex Alliance secured a 17-month contract to buy 40% clean energy for residents which will offer residents a small savings, but increases the Green Energy source by about 20-25%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is no SV meeting in May.</li> <li>● Next SV meeting set for June.</li> </ul>

6.	<p><b>Site Plan Review</b></p> <p><b>a) 467 Bloomfield Avenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dog Day Care proposed at former premises of “Lucy’s Diner” near entrance of Verona Park</li> <li>○ PRC’s comments focused upon applicant’s possible connection of drain to sanitary sewer system. PRC found addition of plantings surrounding site to be beneficial and suggested the addition of rain gardens for disconnected drain pipes.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Review Comments for Address: Sean; Second: Jess.</b></li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan reviews were sent to Kelly Lawrence prior to each hearing.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Peckman Cleanup will be scheduled for June 8, 2019.</li> <li>○ ECEC Roundtable update: TOPIC: Legislation concerning the Environment in NJ.</li> <li>○ Some Township activities included ‘no plastic bag takeout weekends’ (South Orange-Maplewood). Montclair was very strong on Ordinance oversight and updating as well as passage of a resolution against PSE&amp;G’s ability to cut their street-side trees without seeking municipal permission. Assy. John McKeon made a short presentation about how important green legislation is to our state and Ed Postanak, Exec Director of NJ League of Conservation Voters presented how they support conservation legislation.</li> <li>○ Sean suggested social media engagement to encourage our residents to avoid using fertilizer, pesticide and herbicides on their properties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Roundtable Thursday, May 16, 2019 7p.m. Madison Community House: 25 Cook Avenue, Madison. Topic: Single Use Plastic Pollution.</li> <li>• Sarah will post some educational information on FB regarding organic lawn and garden maintenance.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: Next meeting May 8, 2019 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCC Meeting Room</li> </ul>