

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Golan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christen Dietz (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Ceccacci (Sustainable Verona Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christine McGrath (Gov. Body Liaison)	
	DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
1.	Call to Order by Jess: a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Roll Call performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
2.	Public Comment Period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Public Attendees were present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
3.	Approval of February 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Jess; Second: Sarah. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: Martin Golan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	Upcoming Event a) VEC 50th Earth Day Tree Giveaway and Cleanup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden border materials will be installed prior to our cleanup. Hillcrest Farms will be ordering a powder-coated steel border and will be installing it. Sarah and Jess will pick up the trees (TBD as to how many will be received). We are required maintain forms to be filled out by all recipients of free seedlings. Jess will print those out and set up a clipboard for recipients. Any members running the tree table will have to ensure that all recipients sign for their free trees. Role assignments are as follows: Frank and Martin will oversee the tree table and have all recipients fill out their names and email addresses on the forms. Jess, Sarah, Mike A., Kari, Fuad and Christen will mulch and weed the garden. They will relieve Frank and Martin as they finish. Continued cleanup and oversight into the trails will occur with the help of all members throughout the morning. Sarah will introduce the participating children to the Grove Park Ecosystem. Sarah, Mike A., and Jess will help take pictures for Facebook and for submission to the Forestry Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike A. will produce E-flyers to be shared on Social Media by the VEC, the Library and the Township. Finalization of our plans to occur at the 4/15/2020 meeting. Jess will coordinate mulch delivery with Steve Neale Updates on participation with children forthcoming. All updates will be sent via email to members as they become available. Jess will coordinate with DPW for tools and supplies. Jess will bring bagels for volunteers.
5.	Updates: a) VEC Website Presentation (Mike A.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike A. met with Steve Neale on 3/9/2020 to showcase his design and VEC ideas for content. Steve liked the design and simplicity of the presentation. Mike requires editing help and photos and other information so that we can set a go-live date and upload the rudimentary information. Mike will meet with Jess and Sean to give access and directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information migration will begin this month. The website is in the final stages before going live. All minutes and agendas will be posted to the official Verona Township website however links will be available

	<p>for migration of information and updating of site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess, Sean, Mike, and Steve Neale will have access to upload documents and edit information on the site as is necessary. ○ We understand that Steve Neale will review our content for recycling to keep the message across town platforms consistent and clean. ○ Volunteers to help with pictures for the site are needed. ○ Mike explained certain quality control and accessibility issues that must be met on our website. These include coding pictures and data to be ADA acceptable for all web users. ○ All Photos and other information must be given authorization to be used on the site. 	<p>on our new website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All ordinances will be available through direct links to Verona's website for consistency of information. ● Jess will follow up with Steve Neale on reimbursement to Mike A. for the URL payment. ● Jess, Sean, and Steve to meet prior to the April meeting to begin information migration. ● Martin will review the legacy VEC website for evergreen content and place it into a word doc for new website.
	<p>b) Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plastic bag ban ordinance is scheduled be introduced on 3/23/2020 and is based upon the Maplewood model, but with minor changes. ○ The State Senate has passed a State ban. However, it is not known whether it will pass through the Assembly or get signed by the Governor. ○ Should Verona pass a ban, it would likely go into effect 1/1/2021 for all retail businesses. ○ There is discussion as to whether the ban will temporarily or permanently allow for 501c-3's to utilize plastic bags. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the Council introduces the Ordinance at the 3/23/2020 meeting, the second reading would occur on 4/13/2020. ● VEC members are encouraged to attend to support passage. Check Council agenda for upcoming meetings.
	<p>c) Montclair Country Club Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Montclair Country Club Planning Board hearing was on 2/27/2020. ○ The Township Engineer compiled a long list of stormwater and drainage requirements which were unmet for this meeting. The applicant had not adjusted the report to reflect the current soil classifications and was asked to do so. ○ The applicant will need to resubmit a new stormwater management report and a tree removal plan, prepared by a licensed tree expert to be reviewed at the 3/26/2020 meeting. ○ Questions were raised as to the termination of certain piping under the driving range. This issue will be further addressed at the 3/26/2020 meeting. ○ Tree mitigation at the lower borders of the course, where water flow overwhelms neighboring backyards and Verona streets, was suggested. This will also be addressed at the upcoming meeting. ○ Compliance with certain Stormwater rules was raised concerning fertilizer use and unmitigated tree removals. These impacted both eutrophication of the Verona Lake and the production of swamp like areas surrounding the South West lawn portion of the Verona Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess and Sean will update the VEC if new information becomes available. ● Next Planning Board meeting for continued hearing is scheduled for 3/26/2020. ● New plans may be forthcoming and the VEC PRC will review them prior to the 3/26/2020 meeting. ● Sean will send out the 2018 VEC recommendation to the Council for the Verona Park for members to review.

	<p>d) Consistency Review of Cameco Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the affordable housing requirement, and the fact that Cameco was offering 100% affordable housing, Cameco's overall zoning plan was found to be consistent with Verona's Master Plan. ○ The Planning Board made recommendation to include the NJ Stormwater Rule requirements be included in the ordinance as well as other tweaks be made on building height, density and traffic circulation. ○ The Council passed the revised zoning ordinance and the next step is for site plans to be created in accordance to the new zoning code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates when they are available. ● The meeting set for 7 p.m. on the site plan at Council Chambers was cancelled. Any new information will be posted on Facebook and sent to members via email. ● Update at April Meeting.
	<p>e) Board of Adjustment meeting on Grove Ave. Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two Grove Avenue applications are on the agenda. ○ One application is a resubmission for a 40-unit building planned for 21-25 Grove Ave. ○ The other is for non-permitted uses on 251 ½ Grove Ave. No other details were available for this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The BoA Meeting is Thursday 3/12/2020 and all members of the public are welcomed to attend.
	<p>f) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV met on 3/4/2020. ○ TREX initiative begins on 4/1/2020. Donations of over 500 pounds of unwanted plastic materials will win a trex bench. ○ Composting will be introduced to the Claridge House and other large condominium associations. Java Compost will also be presenting at the Library on 3/31/2020. ○ The Verona Park Conservancy has a cleanup planned for 4/18/2020. Frank sent them an email asking for them to consider revising their date for 4/25/2020 so that better participation can occur at both events. They cannot change their date. ○ New e-chargers are planned for installation at the VCC and the Verona Pool. ○ A \$10k grant application was submitted by Steve Neale for the Verona Community Garden. We are awaiting a response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frank's SV updates are ongoing throughout the year. ● Frank invited SV members to our Earth Day Cleanup and Tree Giveaway event and some members expressed interest. ● A Green Fair is scheduled for 5/9/2020 at Caldwell University. More updates when they become available.
	<p>g) Future Collaboration with the Cedar Grove EC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Email was received from the CGEC asking about Earth Day plans. ○ Since we already have detailed plans, we wrote back that perhaps we should do a West Essex Trail cleanup with them later this year. ○ Members were interested in a collaborative cleanup in the Fall on the West Essex Trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates when they become available.
6.	VEC Plan Review Committee Comments and Findings	
	<p>a) 21-25 Grove Avenue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant to Board of Adjustment reapplies with updated plans still seeking multiple variances to construct a 40-unit residential building in Town Center (see PRC Review dated Nov. 25, 2019) ○ No details pertaining to the plantings or drainage on the green 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean had sent the VEC PRC memo to the appropriate Board Secretary at their due date. ● The BOA meeting will take place 4/12/2020 at 8 p.m. in

	<p>roof materials were included in the plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An increase in impervious surface of over 5000 ft² was reflected in their Stormwater management report. This increase requires explanation. ○ The PRC continues to express concern over coverage and limits of disturbance of this building and will resubmit their current review with the additional notes above. <p>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 21-25 Grove Ave: Sean; Second: Mike.</p> <p>APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</p>	<p>the VCC Ballroom.</p>
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Essex County EC Roundtable: Drinking Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Roundtable will take place on Thursday 3/26/2020 at 7 p.m. at the Robert J. O'Toole Community Center in Cedar Grove. ○ There is a Planning Board Meeting that evening as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin will be attending on behalf of the VEC and will update us at our next meeting. • Jess will register Martin this week.
	<p>b) FEMA \$200k funding request was turned down to stabilize the Peckman Riverbank from past erosion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further information
	<p>c) Java Compost Presentation 3/31/2020 at the Verona Public Library: 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public is welcomed to attend.
	<p>d) Environmental Commission Training Review (Sarah and Christen D.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meeting was attended by 80 to 90 people and very informative. ○ Discussions and updates were given on Stormwater Rules, possible municipal regulations to be considered, and “how public meetings” work. ○ Guidance was given on how to report construction site issues. ○ Guidance was given on how to read site plans and review development applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to COVID-19, future meetings were cancelled in lieu of an abbreviated online webinar scheduled for 3/14/2020 9:30 to 11 a.m. • Fuad expressed interest in participating in the webinar.
	<p>e) Plastic Art Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion of possible future collaboration/project with Verona Arts, the Library and the Schools on using plastic to make animal and nature sculptures. ○ Further development on this for possible new “contest” to occur at future meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at next meeting.
	<p>f) New Garbage and Recycling Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ordinance will be regulated by multiple municipal members and violations/fines will be issued for non-compliance. ○ DPW is the point of contact for violation reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ordinance # 2020-08; Chapter 111 of Verona’s Municipal Code will go into effect on 3/29/2020
8.	Adjournment: Next meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCC Meeting Room