

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 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"/> Kevin Ryan (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"> Jess introduces guest: Ms. Donna Climent, Watershed Ambassador. Donna listed her goals for her stewardship as environmental education, volunteer programs and stream health. She has offered to attend VEC events where volunteerism is needed. She has also offered to help us with other projects or tasks that we undertake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Climent has been invited to all VEC meetings and events during her stewardship.
3.	Approval of September 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Jess; Second: Frank. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will post minutes to VEC's website and email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Peckman River and Trail Cleanup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VEC changed their cleanup location to the Peckman Trail and River when access to the Commerce Court site could not be secured. About 30 volunteers walked the site to collect bottles, cans, food wrappers and some large bulk garbage strewn near the river. Verona Kids Rock organizers participated and donated Grow and Learn Seed Pods for the children participants at the cleanup. The pods contain various different garden seeds so that children can start their own garden indoors and monitor their growth. Mike suggests the purchase of children's work gloves for future events. Sarah, Mike, and Jess took pictures and Jess uploaded them to our Facebook page. Some of the photos should be uploaded to our website events page, still in the process of creation. Jess suggests that we may be able to fit another cleanup in before the winter and reminds members about the Verona Park Conservancy event Saturday, 10/17/2020 at 9 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action required. Mike is creating the Event Page and Sean will upload the photos to the site. Jess will email Steve to inquire about purchasing children's gloves for future events.
	b) VEC Website Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are still seeking member articles or media for educational content for the website. At some point, we may consider a fillable waiver file for registration to our cleanups events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike and Sean will work on adding an Events Page and populate it with past photos. Mike thinks it is possible to add a fillable waiver that can receive and save registration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will add an events page that we can populate with past events and pictures as well as promote upcoming events. ○ Sarah suggests we begin to populate the Education Page and offers to draft an article. ○ Sean took video of the bank of the Peckman so we can compare it to prior year's videos. This will be added to our YouTube site and get embedded into our website. Sean adds that it may be interesting to add a 'before-after' pull tab to still photos to evaluate erosion impacts on the riverbank. 	<p>information for future events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah will write an article on fall pollinators for our Education Page. ● Mike will look into a slide tab for 'before and after' still photos as well as side by side video splicing apps. ● Mike will add Sean's videos to the website.
	<p>c) Verona Recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cardboard has been presenting Verona with issues. The collection company wants to limit moisture content to 13% but the Township has no reasonable method to monitor curbside contents. It is foreseen that cardboard recycling may be discontinued and that it is at risk to become regular garbage. This would increase our town-wide expenses for carting due to significantly higher tonnage. ○ There will be a new tagging program that will require review from one or more DPW employees. They will visit different streets and quadrants and actively place no-pickup tag on bins or barrels that have obvious mistakes. Our recycling contractor will leave those tagged bins and the resident will have to hold onto it until the next pickup date. ○ Multiple offenses (3 strikes) will elicit a letter from the Township. ○ A spreadsheet will be created to keep track of the types of offenses and locations. ○ There will also be a townwide push for educational materials (including videos, as discussed) that will support the new program. ○ We will need to update our website to include this new information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awaiting direction from Steve Neale on a new recycling contract. ● Jess will send Mike and Sean the information for upload to the site. ● Jess will email Councilman Ryan as a reminder to bring some of our questions to the Council.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Stormwater Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess, Sean, Manager Cavallo and Engineer DeCarlo met virtually on 9/30/2020 to discuss potential Stormwater Rules to be implemented in Verona's required Ordinance update, which is required to be approved by 3/2/2021. ○ Following The Water Institute's model with certain modifications, and Mr. DeCarlo's recommendations, discussions included reducing the trigger for "major developments" and including requirements for "minor developments" (residential properties) to mitigate runoff. ○ The new rules implement green infrastructure (GI) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout development sites to meet quantity and quality control, groundwater recharge and soil erosion controls. ○ Sean suggested updating Verona's Zoning Code with Residential Stormwater standards to prevent conflicts with Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS), which are less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean and Jess will have a follow up meeting DeCarlo sometime this month to further the details. ● Update at next meeting.

	strict.	
	<p>b) Land Use Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo and Zoning Administrator Mike DeCarlo are in the process of drafting a new Land Use Ordinance. ○ No further updates are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ordinance is a work in progress. ● Jess will follow up with Manager Cavallo when he is available.
	<p>c) Plastic Bag Ban:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State has passed a Plastic Bag Ban (S864/A1978), which is awaiting the Governor's approval. ○ The ban would go into effect 18 months after the Governor's approval. ○ All municipalities would need to adopt this ban. ○ The ban includes single use plastic bags and polystyrene food containers and would also ban the use of single use paper bags in grocery stores over 2,500 ft². ○ Plastic straws would be available upon request. ○ Exemptions to the law include dry cleaning, prescription and newspaper bags, bags for raw meat, produce and or fish/insects from pet stores and polystyrene butcher trays. ○ The ban includes a ban on paper bags, which may be delaying the approval by the Governor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Governor was expected to sign this bill. ● All municipalities would have to eventually adopt the State ban. ● As requested, Jess will email Sarah a copy of the bill.
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No applications to review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No actions necessary
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Local Farming Cooperatives and Community Supported Agriculture (Christen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The CSA in Caldwell as well as the CSA in Montclair both receive most of their products from Circle Brook Farms, located in Hardwick Township, NJ. Other smaller farms are also participants. Pick-up of shares occurs at local residents' driveways on a designated day of each week. ○ Both CSAs offer different programs with additional fees for add-ons like fruits, honey, eggs and meat programs. ○ Caldwell's basic vegetable share is \$625 for a 24-week share. ○ Montclair's basic vegetable share is \$720 for a 24-week share. ○ The benefits of these programs include farm fresh produce and in many cases organic products that require shorter shipping routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess will email Commissioners the websites for the two CSAs.
	<p>b) 21-25 Grove Avenue Application has adjourned until Thursday 11/12/2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This proposed 4-story building application with no viable open space and requesting 14 variances has been adjourned since its last in-person meeting in March 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah will share the details of the application on FB to inform residents of the upcoming meeting.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:34 p.m. Next Meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via Internet Conference