

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input checked="" 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 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"> No members of the public spoke during Public Comment Period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
3.	Approval of October 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Frank. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	Updates:	
	a) VEC Website Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are still looking for educational content for upload to the website. However, the education page has not been fully developed. We are still working on adding an events page that we can populate with past events and pictures as well as promote upcoming events. Fuad discussed an idea to measure and illustrate Township water use and possible garbage and or recycling totals. His goal is to make people aware of the Verona's carbon footprint and inspire our residents to reduce water use and garbage output to make our footprint greener. He termed it "Verona Green Footprint". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike and Sean will work on adding an events tab and populating it with past photos. Sarah drafted an article for the education page and sent it to Mike. It has not been uploaded yet. Jess will ask if DPW can supply us with water usage statistics for the past year or two to send to Fuad.
	b) Verona Recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new tagging program has begun. No results have been made available as yet. Steve Neale and members of Sustainable Verona (SV) think educational videos should focus upon the mistakes illustrated on the new Township tags (as they are the most common mistakes). Jess took a show of hands for members that want to help produce short 1- to 2-minute videos. Those members will be updated on which issue they will take on and will receive a camera for a day or two with which to video their public service announcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting direction from Steve Neale and SV members as to when and how to tackle the video production. Kari, Sarah and Christen are interested in creating videos. Jess will email Steve with contact information for the interested members.
	c) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Energy Aggregation program is being renewed for an 18-month period and will begin in March 2021 with a new company called Energy Harbor. There will be a 3-month gap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank gives updates at each meeting. Sarah or Jess will share the Energy Aggregate program

	<p>where customers will be reverted back to PSE&G for their energy supplier. The new contract will provide an overall 3% savings/month over PSE&G but with 20% renewable energy sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Garden construction is continuing. The fence should be installed at the end of this week and overall completion should enable the community to partake in Spring planting. ○ Sustainable Verona will be working with members of the VEC to produce educational videos to aid the public on best practices and commonly made mistakes. There will also be a townwide push for other sorts of educational materials (including videos, as discussed) that will support the new recycling program. 	<p>information to our Facebook page once Verona uploads it.</p>
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	<p>a) Stormwater Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess and Engineer DeCarlo met virtually on 10/30/2020 to discuss edits on Stormwater Rules to be implemented in Verona's required Ordinance update, which is required to be approved by 3/3/2021. ○ DeCarlo's suggestions on many of the terms were included in the most recent draft of the Ordinance and a third and final meeting date for Jess, Sean and DeCarlo is pending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean and Jess will have a follow-up meeting with DeCarlo sometime this month to finalize portions of the ordinance before he presents it to Mr. Cavallo. ● Update at next meeting.
	<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"> ○ Governor Murphy signed the NJ State Plastic Bag Ban (S864/A1978) into law on 11/4/2020. ○ All municipalities would need to adopt this ban within 18 months from when the State's ban goes into effect. ○ 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. ○ Jess suggests that we attempt to provide educational materials to the public on our social media and website before Verona adopts the ordinance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No actions necessary for now.
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) None No applications to review.</p>	<p>No actions necessary</p>

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7 p.m.
via Internet Conferencing**

7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Composting in Verona</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess met with Steve Neale and SV member Kelly Drury via Zoom on 10/28/2020 to discuss some potential Township composting plans. ○ Due to the increased cost of our Township garbage contract and the overall potential for a reduction of regular waste, yard waste and certain paper recycling products, the benefits of such a program could save the Township and its residents a great deal of money. ○ Jess and Steve Neale will be attending a virtual composting summit on November 19 to assess how to launch a program in Verona. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess will update members on the summit at the next meeting. ● Java Compost currently services Verona residents, but the goal is to introduce and support widespread backyard composting throughout the Township. ● A final goal would be for the Township to manage a municipal composting site.
	<p>b) Essex County EC Roundtable Event: Drinking Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The event is scheduled on Wednesday, 11/18/2020 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. ○ Registration is through Eventbrite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess sent all members the link for registration. ● Update at next meeting.
	<p>c) Fall Cleanup Event discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two sites may benefit from an organized cleanup: West Essex Trail and the Commerce Court Woods. ○ Site at the end of Park Place was chosen by members. ○ Members and public volunteers will meet in the gravel parking lot, Sunday 11/22/2020 at 11 a.m. to get supplies and plastic bags for collection of garbage. ○ Social distancing and face covering by volunteers will be required. Volunteer crews will sign up and perform cleanup during staggered times during the event. ○ Mike A. had requested kid gloves be obtained for future cleanup events to provide our younger volunteers. We understand that Steve Neale has ordered gloves for 4- to 10-year-olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess will ask if the Township has closed on the Commerce Court property. ● Jess will send Rui and Steve an email to ask/inform about the cleanup at the end of Park Place. ● The cleanup requires Township and School approval. ● Upon approval, Sean will ask Mike A. to produce an event flyer.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:27 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via Internet Conference