

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 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"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Ceccacci (Sustainable Verona Liaison)	<input 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 commented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
3.	Approval of May12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Jess; Second: Martin. 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. Sean will also email the Commission recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair to Manager Cavallo.
4.	Updates: a) Peckman River Cleanup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cleanup on 6/5/21 was a success as the Commission and about 15 volunteers collected a vast amount of trash and recyclables from the site. It was notable that the banks of the river have continued to exhibit erosion and that portions of the trail have become permanently flooded. The water table appears to have risen. The outer regions of the trail are also exhibiting further growth of swampy plants like cattails. Sean will reach out to the Scouts to discuss the possibility of a boardwalk construction in the wet portions of the trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica and Sean will work on a letter of concern regarding the spread of wetlands behind F. N Brown.
	b) Scout Projects: Green Ribbon Cutting Event (tabled) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike will speak with Sam about when the ribbon cutting will occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica will ask Steve Neale for green ribbon for the event and will create a flyer for it to be shared on social media. Update next meeting
	c) Water Usage in Verona (Fuad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuad has compiled the data on all residential and commercial water usage in the Township. He has created a chart to show when use changes to educate the public as to how and when to actively conserve water usage. Sarah will help. Third quarters (Summers) show an expected spike. Fuad will draft suggestions on how to conserve water and why usage spikes at certain times of year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the data is finalized, Mike will upload to the VEC website. Sarah will share on social media. Jess will ask for continual updates from the Water Dept for Fuad's data.

	<p>d) Verona Composting Video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah and Mike captured video and Jess edited. Jess will edit the speed (slow it down) on the final text crawl prior to sharing. ○ Once finalized, the video will be shared on social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean will upload to YouTube. • Mike will upload to the VEC website and share on social media.
	<p>e) Support for the Essex Hudson Greenway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess customized a letter of support to be sent to Gov. Murphy. ○ If approved tonight, Sean will email to the Gov. office and send a copy to Steve Neale. ○ If approved tonight, Jess will also add the VEC to the list of supportive organizations and the VEC’s website and contact information will be listed on their website. <p>MOTION to approve Letter to Governor Murphy in support of the Essex Hudson Greenway: Sean Second: Frank. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</p> <p>MOTION to sign the VEC up as a supportive organization for the EHG: Sarah Second: Sean. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean will forward the letter to the office of Governor Murphy. • Jess will sign Verona up as a supportive organization on the official Greenway website. • Updates as they become available.
	<p>f) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank/Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV did not hold a meeting this month, however they invited members to an airing of the movie: “The Sacrifice Zone”. The movie showcases the need for environmental justice in cities like Newark (where the movie takes place) where dumping of toxic chemicals and sewage overflows are unmitigated and DEP regulations are seemingly absent. ○ Kari will be taking over as the liaison to Sustainable Verona. ○ Composting is being discussed for the Community Garden Area. It is not known whether it will only be available to the garden participants. ○ A composting program may be sought with Java Compost whereby participants will be able to drop off their own compost in a large bin at DPW at a lower cost than home pickup from Java. Other programs may be pursued later. ○ Community Garden continues weekly meetings and Kari has formed a newsletter for the participants with biweekly updates. They are asking for donations from participants for a large weed spraying container. ○ SV submitted Verona’s application to Sustainable NJ. We are attempting to achieve a silver level. ○ Anti-idling Campaign push to start up again. Jess will work with Steve and the SV group to move this toward the schools. Schools are key to posting signage and educating parents and students about the No Idling State Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as every meeting.
	<p>g) Farewell to Frank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frank will be retiring from the VEC after this meeting. ○ Frank has brought much attention to the West Essex Trail and was the catalyst to the VEC's inclusion of the trail for many cleanup events. ○ Frank was a champion for the Verona Community Garden. He attended most of their weekly meetings and helped in the overall planning and coordination of the garden and its organization. ○ The VEC wished Frank well and thanked him for his contributions to our goals. ○ Frank will remain a contact that will continue to attend our events! 	
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	<p>a) Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The town posted our recommendation on Planet Civic on 5/21/21. ○ Just over 300 votes have been cast on Planet Civic, which is under 3% of Verona's population and therefore not representative of the residents' actual voice. ○ It seems, from the comments on Planet Civic that many seem to think that the VEC has recommended an overall and complete ban of GLB use in the township. ○ Jess sent a request to reframe the recommendations on Planet Civic due to the misinterpretation that were being posted in the comments. ○ Sean felt that the questions framed the issue incorrectly and that they should have captured the essence of our simple recommendation. ○ The votes are not in favor with any sort of restriction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when new information becomes available.
	<p>b) Mini Cell Towers: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Town Council discussed this in New Business at an April meeting and are in the process of drafting an ordinance with an expert. ○ The ordinance is a work in progress and a draft has been posted to the Township Website. It will likely need to go before the Planning Board for consistency review of the Master Plan. ○ It has yet to be determined as to whether the mini towers will be prohibited from certain zones and from direct installation on homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ordinance is a work in progress and will probably be moved forward after the new Council members are sworn in. ● Updates as they become available
	<p>c) Land Use Ordinance: (Tabled)</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. ● Updates as they become available.
	<p>d) Invasive Species Ordinance: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo sent Jessica a request to find other invasive plant species ordinances in the state to seek a model for Verona. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates as they become available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There will be no action on this until the new Council is sworn in. 	
6.	<p>Plan Review</p> <p>a) 33 Birdseye Glen, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The applicant proposes an addition and deck which will be built where a current deck is, however, will extend into the rear and side yard setbacks. o The addition did not go over the allowable coverage, did not propose to remove trees and did not exceed new impervious coverage to trigger stormwater mitigation for small developments. o PRC recommended green building practices and energy efficient fixtures. <p>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 33 Birdseye Glen: Sean Second: Jess.</p> <p>APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>b) 21-25 Grove Avenue, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The applicant proposes a 4-story residential building on .72 acres where such a use is not permitted. o The building was deemed oversized based upon the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The entire site and beyond is to be disturbed b. Every existing tree is slated for removal c. R.S.I.S. parking requirements cannot be met onsite d. No open space is provided for residents onsite e. The building encroaches 35 ft. into the rear yard setback f. Building height exceeds limit by 1.5 stories (about 20 ft.) g. Seeks to reduce mandatory buffer from 15 to 12 ft. o The VEC PRC finds that the Stormwater Report and the Applicant's mitigation plan was not compliant with the Township's Ordinance. The Applicant seeks to pipe all stormwater off site and provides no room for viable green infrastructure for mitigation. The entire site is to be impervious. o The PRC finds that the landscaping plan for the site is unviable. Trees and other plantings requiring full sun will be planted in areas where they will be blocked by the tall, proposed building. o PRC recommends that the applicant resubmit site plans which comply with Verona's Stormwater Ordinance. <p>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 21-25 Grove Avenue: Sean Second: Fuad.</p> <p>APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting. • The BOA meeting is scheduled for hearing on 6/10/2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. • The VEC understands that this application may be adjourned, and revised site plans will be submitted soon.
7.	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) Mr. Karmel will present on Composting at the 7/14/21 meeting via Zoom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica has alerted Steve Neale to invite SV members. 	
	b) Jessica Confirms that renewal emails have been sent to Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
	c) Rain Garden to be installed at the Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates when available.
	d) Kari: Initiative for recycling at the Verona Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kari spoke with Steve who said that no one attempts to properly recycle and garbage ends up in the recycling bins. ○ The recycling bins look like garbage cans. Sean and Kari suggest using the green bins or the blue recycling cans. They are easily identified as recycling containers. ○ It was suggested that these containers be placed next to every garbage receptacle to give people the choice. There is no choice now. ○ Over 1000 people were at the pool on Sunday, which means there was likely thousands of cans and bottles tossed into the garbage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will contact the Pool Manager for a discussion with Kari as to how to support recycling. • Kari will lead this discussion. • Update next meeting.
8.	Adjournment: 9:12 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference