

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"/> Fuad Dahan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Golan	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate I)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Berardo (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis (Sustainable Verona Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Holland (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 June 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Kari. 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.	Municipal Composting Presentation [Matt Karmel] a) Matt Karmel is a member of the NJ Composting Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt suggests many potential programs that Verona could pursue, including expansion of the current services that Java provides for participating residents. This would enable more residents to deposit food waste at the recycling center. Other Programs include on-site municipal composting centers that could be either run by the Township or with a private partner that the Township could hire. Municipal composting sites range in cost from \$100 to \$200K upwards to \$1 to \$2M depending on the type and services offered. It was not established as to whether these were one-time costs, yearly or whether this cost included operating fees. Static piles do not emit foul odors and do not invite rodents due to the high temperatures maintained by the pile. The piles are also covered to protect against these possibilities. Grants are available. A discussion followed on how energy could potentially be captured from the 150°F to 170°F static pile and how that could form a pathway to an energy-based grant. However, it is not fully known if renewable energy grants could apply to an aerobic static pile form of composting (which is the most cost-effective method of municipal composting). The VEC was sent a link to a NYSERDA study that provides a cost analysis of composting vs. traditional waste retrieval for their review. Discussion of partnering with neighboring townships, like Cedar Grove or Montclair, or the County was also discussed. Cedar Grove borders the former Verona Leaf Dump, a site discussed as a potential location for a composting site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt will make himself available for more questions and for a potential presentation before the Verona Town Council at a later date.

5.	<p>Updates:</p> <p>a) Scout Projects: Green Ribbon Cutting Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This event is scheduled on Saturday, July 17, at 10 a.m. ○ All VEC members are encouraged to attend to view the fairy house trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica will email the Council to invite all members to the ribbon cutting event. ● Jessica will email Chief Kiernan to ask for attendance and extra patrol to deter against vandalism.
	<p>b) Open Space and Recreation Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Plan was adopted by the Council and sent to the Planning Board for a consistency review. ○ Planning Board had some debate on a few items that should be added to the plan including details about other steeply sloped and wooded properties to the inventory list. ○ They also felt that the report should not include any pre-determined uses for any of the properties listed in the open space inventory or withheld from it (i.e.: any portion of withheld property that may be slated for development, or any property included in the report that is tagged for a specific use). ○ The Planning Board found the document consistent with the Masterplan, which adopts it into our Masterplan, so that the Township's application could be submitted to the State for Green Acres Funding by July 15, 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None.
	<p>c) Verona Pool Recycling [Kari]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During our June meeting, Kari pointed out that the Verona Pool does not adhere to recycling regulations. ○ Kari and Jess met with Maryellen McHugh, the pool's office manager, and Township Officials to discuss how we can reimplement recycling at the pool. ○ Flyers will be created to sit on each table. Information would include which items should and should not be recycled (#1, 2 and 5 plastics and cans) and which bins to place those items in. The flyers would potentially include a QR code which may further advise residents of our recycling rules. ○ Incentivizing recycling was discussed (i.e.: having bottle/can collection contests each weekend with modest prizes). ○ The water refill station discharges warm water. It was asked whether they can be set to chill the water, or if ice could be made available to residents who use the stations. ○ Sorting cardboard was discussed. ○ Other ideas, such as selling quality reusable water bottles, were promoted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The new recycling policy will begin this weekend (July 17-18) at the pool. ● Kari will send an email to Steve N. with any commission suggestions and questions. ● Update after the pool season ends.

	<p>d) Sustainable Verona Update: Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV met at the Avenue Bistro for short updates and social gathering. ○ 5,000 reusable bags were ordered for the BAG UP campaign. ○ SV will be moving to submit more documents to achieve a silver status. ○ A brief discussion ensued on recycling at the Verona Pool. ○ Garden pavers are getting installed for a walkway and for the ADA beds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates at every meeting.
6.	Ordinance Updates (Tabled)	
7.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 34 Linn Drive, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to build a 2-story (2-unit) apartment building on 0.42 acre. They also propose to add expansive outdoor patio space and an outdoor fireplace. ○ The applicant seeks to remove 34 mature trees from the site and states that they will not be mitigating with replacements, although their landscaping plan includes 15 replacement trees. They did not enlist a licensed tree expert for the determination of any tree's health. ○ The replacement trees are not deer-resistant and the property is at the edge of the Hilltop Reservation, known to be inhabited by White Tail Deer. ○ There was no stormwater mitigation for small developments included in their application. Additionally, the VEC PRC asked whether pipe diameter from the proposed site to the existing system was properly analyzed for capacity to stave off stress on the system. ○ Recommended that the steep slopes on the site are delineated. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 34 Linn Drive: Sean; Second: Fuad. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>b) 261 Grove Avenue, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant installed a patio, an above ground pool, and surrounding detached decking without permits. ○ The applicant exceeded total improved lot coverage by about 10% (49.8% when 40% is allowed). ○ The VEC PRC recommended that part of the patio should be removed, any removed trees for the installation be replaced according to our ordinance, and that stormwater mitigation be executed on site to offset the new impervious coverage. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 261 Grove Avenue: Jess; Second: Sean. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>c) 23 Hamilton Road, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes a small walkway and patio, which would exceed total improved lot coverage on the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant also proposes to add a 1,000-gallon concrete seepage pit to mitigate consistent flooding from a neighboring property. ○ VEC PRC recommended to add green infrastructure, like a small grass swale or rain garden and to consider the use of permeable pavers for the walkway and patio. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 23 Hamilton Road: Mike; Second: Jess. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	
7.	New Business	
	a) Our next meeting will be held in-person at the VEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members that may not be comfortable attending, or public members may have the option to zoom into the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
	b) 21-25 Grove Avenue submits revised plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plans appear to reduce the building from 4 to 3 stories, when only 2.5 stories are allowed. ○ The plans appear to reduce the number of units from 35 to 30. ○ The coverage on the site remains unchanged, well over the allowable percentage and no new stormwater report has been submitted. ○ Tony, Jess, and Sean will be reviewing the new plans, and our recommendations/report is due August 1, 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at our September meeting.
8.	Adjournment: 9:05 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Room at the Verona Community Center