

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate I/Plan Review)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input 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 July 14, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Fuad. 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) Rain Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rain garden is planned at the Verona Community Center, in front of the playground (to be installed between the sidewalk A.D.A. rampway). DPW has installed drainpipes from the field and playground to eventuate into the garden bed. Financing is being handled by the Town Manager. The CDBG needs to be closed out, and therefore estimates that installation will occur next year. Planning of the plantings will occur this fall. Jess asks for volunteers for a planting list: Sarah and Kari volunteer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as they become available.
	b) Girl Scout Fairy Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VEC members and volunteers helped Samantha Cunniff rebuild the Fairy Trail after young boys destroyed many of the houses. The Verona Public Library will be inviting community members to continue this new tradition along the Grove Park Trail. Mike Auteri will be the liaison for this effort and will keep the VEC posted on upcoming events. Mike to confer with Library to create flyers for publicizing events on the VEC Facebook page. Cleanup events will be planned by the VEC and Fairy House installations may occur from Spring through late Fall. The VEC may request that houses are removed prior to the first snowfall so that they can be repurposed and not left to decay in the Grove Park woods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike will keep up updated at each meeting.

	<p>c) Verona Pool Recycling: Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The late introduction of this program curtailed it from full implementation. ○ Recycling receptacles with a clear view of contents from the top were to be placed next to all garbage cans; but only three unmarked bins with lids were introduced. ○ As a result, pool-goers continued to contaminate both types of receptacles. ○ Education, announcements, flyers, and table tents need to be fully implemented for success. ○ Next year, the VEC will work with the pool and Township to plan for successful implementation ahead of the season. ○ Jess suggests that Kari head a new subcommittee for pool recycling. Mike joins the subcommittee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates as they become available.
	<p>d) Sustainable Verona Update: Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV will meet virtually on 9/22/2021. They did not have an August meeting. ○ SV has ordered a large supply of reusable cloth bags for residents to help support the upcoming single-use plastic bag ban. ○ The Sustainable NJ newsletter featured the Verona Community Garden this month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates at every meeting.
	<p>e) VEC suggested projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk to School Day, 10/6/2021. ○ Poster Contest: Postponed due to Covid Regulations. ○ New push for Anti-Idling – Draft recommendation letter to Governing Body. ○ Composting: postponed short-term due to Township Storm issues. Mike raises questions about fund raising, i.e.: a scary trail for Halloween. ○ VEC social media support of Verona Fights Hunger week, food sustainability education and charitable giving. ○ Fuad's water usage charting. Awaiting update and report at next meeting ○ Fostering relationships with the area's scouting organizations in an ongoing effort. ○ An Invasive species list has been compiled based upon State recommendations. ○ Recommended planting list for Zoning Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess will email all Verona school principals and other officials to remind them about Walk to School Day. ● Jess will address questions about fund raising with the Town Manager ● Members are asked to think about other projects we may undertake.
6.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<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 where about 2% of the community weighed in (323 votes on an ordinance). 182 voted against and 141 voted for adopting an ordinance that would restrict commercial use of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when new information becomes available.

	<p>gas-powered leaf blowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planet Civic was not an effective tool for this sort of topic. o No further discussion has occurred on this topic. 	
	<p>b) Mini Cell Towers: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Town Council discussed this in New Business at their 5/3/2021 Town Council meeting and are in the process of drafting an ordinance with an expert. o Questions regarding restrictions on installations in residential neighborhoods have been asked, but no answers are available yet. o No further progress has been discussed. o The last draft ordinance may be found here: Mini Cell Draft Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available
	<p>c) Land Use Ordinance: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Manager Matt Cavallo and Zoning Administrator Mike DeCarlo are in the process of drafting a new Land Use Ordinance. o 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"> o Manager Cavallo sent Jessica a request to find other invasive plant species ordinances in the state to seek a model for Verona. o Jessica will revisit this with the Town Manager in coming weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.
7.	<p>Plan Review</p>	
	<p>a) 21-25 Grove Avenue, Verona NJ- Revised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The plans appear to reduce the building from 4 to 3 stories, when only 2.5 is allowed o The plans appear to reduce the number of units from 35 to 30, which would allow for 42 units per acre (the site is 0.72 acre). o The impervious coverage on the site remains unchanged, not reduced, and well over the allowable percentage. No new stormwater report has been submitted o The Stormwater plan was threadbare. Only one 12" pipe was shown to handles all runoff offsite. Runoff is supposed to be maintained onsite. The PRC memo questioned whether this small pipe could handle the stormwater for this ¾ acre, paved site. o The memo questioned the selection and placement of plantings in areas that will receive little to no sun. o Recommended that the steep slopes on the site are delineated. o MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 21-25 Grove Avenue: Jess; Second: Fuad. o 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. • This hearing may move forward at the BOA's 9/9/2021 meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.
	<p>b) 34 Linn Drive, Verona, NJ-Revised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The applicant proposes to build a 2-story (2 unit) apartment building on 0.42 acre. They also propose to add expansive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.

	<p>outdoor patio space and an outdoor fireplace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant seeks to remove 34 mature trees from the site and have not relied upon a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) to assess the health of the trees, as is required by our Township Code. They also failed to submit a landscape plan for replacement trees. They also stated that cedar trees were in poor condition in their first submission and later, stated that those trees were arborvitaes in their second submission. This is precisely why an LTE is required to assess trees. These were among the recommendations of the VEC PRC. ○ The applicant ignored the Steep Slope Ordinance maintained within the Zoning Code. ○ The replacement trees are not deer-resistant, and the property is at the edge of the Hilltop Reservation, known to be invasively inhabited by White Tail Deer. ○ There was no stormwater mitigation for small developments included in their application. Additionally, the 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 23 Linn Drive: Sean; Second: Jess. ○ RECUSED: Tony. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	
	<p>c) 93 Lynwood Road, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to install an inground pool and cabana, which would exceed allowable improved lot coverage as well as setbacks for accessory structures and pools. ○ The VEC PRC memo recommended the addition of green infrastructure for stormwater mitigation as per the addition of over 400 ft² of impervious surface. This is in addition to their proposed 500-gallon seepage pit. ○ The applicant appears to have removed a large number of trees from a steeply sloped area. The VEC PRC submitted google map pictures that showed a clear cutting of vast numbers of trees which is contrary to both the Tree Ordinance and the Steep Slope Ordinance. The memo recommended that testimony be given on all permitted and non-permitted tree removals. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 93 Lynwood Road: 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>d) 12 Lynwood Road, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to add a front, covered porch which would encroach into the front yard setback by approximately 7.5 feet. ○ The applicant will be adding 140 ft² of new impervious surface, therefore will not be required to install any stormwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.

	<p>mitigation. Additionally, no trees are slated for removal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC PRC recommended that planting/shrubs be replaced, and that green building materials and practices are utilized for the planned construction. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 12 Lynwood Road: Sean; Second: Sarah. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	
	<p>e) 69 South Prospect Street, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes a 6-foot fence to be installed in two front yards (corner lot) where a heavily deer-browsed arborvitae hedge currently exists. ○ VEC PRC recommended that should the application be granted, that the applicant assess the health of the arborvitae trees that exceed 10 feet, in accordance with (§493-26 A) and replace those that are healthy on site. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 69 South Prospect Street: Sean; Second: Sarah. ○ 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.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Eagle Scout Boardwalk Project at the F. N. Brown Peckman Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean and Jess met with Eagle Scout Candidate Ayden Hanlon to assess which areas in the Peckman Woods would benefit from such an installation. ○ The Township has okayed preliminary plans for this installation, pending plans and materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available. • All plans should be presented to the Town Manager and Engineering Dept. for approval prior to installation at the Peckman Trail.
	<p>b) Updated suggested plant list for Verona Zoning Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Zoning Code contains an outdated list of suggested plantings. The current list is not consistent in listing scientific and common names and includes species that have since been listed by the NJDEP as invasive. ○ Jess began compiling new lists relying on multiple dependable State resources and has since had the list vetted by the Hilltop Conservancy and is in process with the Shade Tree Commission. ○ Once the Shade Tree Commission responds with any changes or additions, this list will be finalized and sent to the Town Manager. ○ The list also adds columns for height, flower/fruit, whether a shrub is deciduous or evergreen, nativity and incorporates a deer resistance rating. This additional data will help both applicants and land use boards in assessing landscape plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.
	<p>c) Algae at Verona Lake/Verona Park Conservancy (VPC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC was contacted by the VPC to confer about algae in the Lake. This was a concern raised in April of 2018 by the VEC. ○ At that time, the VEC sent a letter to the Town Council asking that they contact Essex County to ask for a list of steps to be taken to help reduce the eutrophication and algae. Much 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.

	<p>concern was voiced on the use of fertilizers and removal of hundreds of trees by the Montclair Golf Club. The effects of this are most notable at the south portion of the lake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess forwarded our letter of concern to the VPC, and they forwarded their own sentiments to the head of Essex County Parks Dept., Mr. Salvante. 	
	<p>d) Cleanup at the Peckman at HBW Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On hold until Township assesses damage from Tropical Storm Ida. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at next meeting
	<p>e) Discussion on the damage at the Peckman River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean and Jess captured pictures of severe structural damage, bank degradation, and a massive deposit of rock and sediment from Tropical Storm Ida. ○ Storm and sanitary sewer structures at the river bank were noted to have lost soil embankments to rapid erosion and require shoring-up before further damages occur. ○ The Township will be meeting with an Environmental Attorney at a special Council Meeting scheduled for 9/9/2021 to discuss what sorts of permits may be needed for mitigation as well as funding resources. ○ Manager Cavallo, in attendance, spoke about outreach to Congresswoman Sherril's office as well as contact with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates at next meeting
8.	<p>Adjournment: 9:18 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, October 8, 2021, at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.