

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" 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)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri		
	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 October 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Mike; 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) Peckman River Damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Township met with DEP and FEMA officials as well as hosted a visit from Congresswoman Sherrill. Discussion followed on partnering with Cedar Grove to form a Flood Control Advisory Board to discuss flooding, runoff, and stormwater issues, while maintaining an autonomous stormwater system for the Township. No control will be ceded. Waiting for permits to clear debris in portions of the Peckman. All clearance activities can be funded by FEMA and other improvements may be funded through the NJ I-Bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at next meeting.
	b) Scouting Projects (No Updates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as they become available.
	c) Sustainable Verona (Kari) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Verona met on 11/3/21. Eagle Scout candidate attended meeting and was invited to work on the recycling program at the Verona Community Pool. Steve reviewed that Verona achieved a Sustainable Bronze certification and continue to work towards a silver level. Java Municipal drop-off composting program is moving ahead with more details to follow. Ordered 5,000 reusable bags, but there is a delay in their delivery. Plan was to give them away at the SV table at the Fair in the Square on Saturday, December 4th. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at each meeting.
	d) Verona Water Usage (Fuad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuad has been charting Verona's Water Usage over the past couple of years, focusing on residential usage. Residents in houses consume/use 60 to 70 gallons per day average over a quarterly basis based on a population of 14,300. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuad will update us in November. Jess will ask tax department if new census data is available. Mike and Fuad will post

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents, apartments, and two other categories of housing presented data that could not be broken down to use per person. ○ Fuad will investigate pricing per gallon of water to show the cost of our usage. ○ Mike will help Fuad with adding info to the website and Brooke will draft a text narrative on how to conserve/save on water usage. 	<p>information to the website.</p>
	<p>e) School Outreach (Jess)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess contacted Vice Principal Merkler who put her in contact with the Ms. Vanessa Reisinger, the high school science teacher and leader of the Environmental Club (~70 students). ○ Jess had a Zoom discussion with Vanessa and offered to Zoom with the students to describe what sorts of issues could be covered in a creative digital or video PSA for the Township. ○ Jess and Brooke will be meeting via google (in-school field trip) with all AP science students and the Environmental Club to set parameters of projects and discuss subject matter. ○ Due dates for projects will be set once the students have met with the VEC members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess and Brooke will meet to formulate a list of objectives and possible subject matter for the students. ● Updates when they become available.
	<p>f) Impervious Surface Report: 2020 BoA applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean asked our Zoning Code officer to send us data on approved variances where new impervious surface was added. ○ In 2020, we had nine applications that added new impervious coverage lending to an overall average of: 7.71% additional coverage. This new coverage also showed an average allowance of 8.21% over the existing allowable coverage as per Verona's Zoning Code. ○ The average square footage of new impervious surface added was 700 ft² on an average property size of 0.20 acre or 8,822 ft². ○ These figures are directly in line with the study conducted by the Newton Creek Watershed Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up as new data becomes available. ● Mike wants to post this data to our website. ● Sean wants to retrieve data from 2018-2019 to present to chart the trend of additional impervious surface in Verona.
	<p>g) Treasured Tree (Tabled)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess and Sarah plan to take pictures of trees in the Spring. ● Update when they become available.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Anti-Idle Resolution Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC is awaiting a response from the Council on their recommendation to pass a new anti-idling resolution. ○ The VEC hopes this resolution is brought to vote at the next November Council meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when latest information becomes available.
	<p>b) Mini Cell Towers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Town Council discussed this in New Business at their 5/3/2021, council meeting and are in the process of drafting an ordinance with an expert. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update next meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions regarding restrictions on installations in residential neighborhoods have been asked; especially regarding installations on residentially zoned homes, garages, or other structures, but no answers are available yet. This should be clarified as soon as possible to regulate placement to rights of way. ○ State legislation (S-2674) is under consideration that basically strips local governments from zoning control and placement of any new cell towers in public right of ways in all zones. ○ This state effort would allow for additional poles to be added, even in residential zones for the installation of carrier cells. ○ Control is given to local authorities when deemed “reasonable”. ○ Local authorities may control certain esthetics within historic districts. ○ The legislation also regulates/limits permit fees. ○ It strips the municipality from any jurisdiction of design elements when the equipment is on private property. ○ The last draft ordinance may be found here: Mini Cell Draft Ordinance. 	
	<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) Planting Recommendations and Invasive Species Ordinance: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo is in receipt of both lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates as they become available.
6.	Plan Review (Tabled)	
	a) Cameco/Pirhl Project	<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) Cleanup at Peckman Park/Commerce Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VEC will be hosting a cleanup on Sunday 11/14/21 at the new Peckman Park from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ○ Sustainable Verona was invited to join. ○ The VEC may consider giving out a service certificate to volunteers (via email) to those that request one after volunteer events. This may help those individuals provide proof of volunteerism that many local organizations require. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All members are encouraged to attend the cleanup event.
	<p>b) Spotted Lanternfly and Tree Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess has been corresponding with the Shade Tree Commission and the Hilltop Conservancy about a rapid increase in Lanternfly populations in Verona. ○ Shade Tree Commission recommends that Tree of Heaven/Ash trees be removed from private properties, without replacement mitigation requirements, due to their vulnerability to pest issues. ○ Jess spoke with a Shade Tree member, Teena Schwartz, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates as they become available.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
 Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7 p.m.
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	<p>members of the administration to discuss other recommendations for the ordinance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updates include registration of all tree contractors yearly in order to do business in the Township. This includes a yearly fee. ○ Hiring a Forester. ○ Requiring replacement trees on a 1-to-1 basis for dead or dangerous trees, except for Ash or Tree of Heaven species. 	
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:30 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, December 8, at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.