

<b>Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Berardo (Alternate II)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis (Sustainable Verona Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Holland (Gov. Body Liaison)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri		
	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>
1.	<b>Call to Order by Jess:</b> a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Roll Call performed.	• None.
2.	<b>Public Comment Period:</b> • Ashlee Smith, Watershed Ambassador, introduces herself to VEC.	• None
3.	<b>Approval of November 10, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes:</b> • <b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Mike. • <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE. • <b>Abstentions:</b> None.	• Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	<b>Updates:</b>	
	<b>a) Peckman River Damage:</b> ○ Township still pursuing proper permits for debris clearing operation at the Peckman River. Township has ongoing meetings with the DEP. ○ Caldwell sent a letter to surrounding towns to discuss sharing a report compiled on Caldwell's vulnerability. The purpose is to create a stormwater summit of west Essex municipalities. The report will be completed in the Fall of 2022. ○ Rutgers students are in the process of creating new flood mapping for the township of Verona. This will help in our ability to not only further identify our problem areas, but to also properly plan for future mitigation and potential development.	• Updates at next meeting
	<b>b) Sustainable Verona (Kari) (Tabled)</b>	• Updates at each meeting.
	<b>c) Verona Water Usage (Fuad) (Tabled)</b>	• Fuad will update us in January and will present on PFOAs too.
	<b>d) School Outreach (Brooke):</b> ○ Jess and Brooke met to compile a list of topics for students to cover in their PSA projects. ○ The list includes some details of why the topic has local importance and some important internet links that can give students a launching pad to their research. ○ Jess and Brooke emailed Mrs. Reisinger with the list and asked for potential dates for a google meeting with her students. ○ Due dates for projects will be set once the students have met with the Commission members. ○ Awaiting scheduling updates from the science teacher	• Updates when they become available.
	<b>e) No Idle Resolution:</b> ○ The Resolution passed unanimously at the 11/21/2021 Council	• Follow up with BOE as needed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meeting.</li> <li>o Jess and Sean sent a letter to the Verona BOE and the interim Superintendent Dr. Furnari asking for signage to be placed at areas of high incidence.</li> <li>o The letter also asked that information on this resolution be sent to all school administrators, staff, teachers, parents, and students.</li> <li>o The letter also offered to make the Commission available to address questions and help with any educational issues for the district.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>f) ECEC Roundtable Update (Sarah):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sarah represented the VEC at the Essex County Environmental Commission Roundtable meeting on 11/30/2021.</li> <li>o Det. Sgt. Capadonna and Det. Knox from the Essex County OEM discussed the difficulties of solving major county issues included in our Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan.</li> <li>o Dr Richard Lathrop spoke on the NJ Adapt Tools at the NJ Climate Change Resource Center.</li> <li>o Other local Essex County Commissioners shared their ongoing projects, and all expressed an interest in banding together on county-wide composting programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Ordinance Updates</b>	
	<p><b>a) Mini Cell Towers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Council revisited the Ordinance at their 11/21/2021 meeting.</li> <li>o The discussion focused upon the fact that there is currently legislation in the NJ State House and that the Council should also enact a municipal ordinance asap.</li> <li>o Preference is being given to preexisting towers and in municipally or governmentally owned facilities for installation.</li> <li>o Discussion was given to limiting the total amount of towers or providers that can install on one individual facility to ward off overload to three.</li> <li>o If the community currently has underground utilities, then all 5G carriers must also provide for underground service.</li> <li>o Preference is given to County and State Roadways in the ROW, whereas the last level of preference was residential areas/zones.</li> <li>o The one area that the VEC has focused upon is for the ordinance to prohibit installation on residential single and small multi-family homes and accessory structures on those properties (i.e.: garages).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up when new information becomes available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Tree Ordinance Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Council discussed potential updates to the Tree Preservation Ordinance at their 12/6/2021 Council meeting.</li> <li>o There are needed updates to stop rampant tree removals with no mitigation. Mitigation is not mandatory when a tree is assessed as dead, dying, or dangerous by an Licensed Tree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ordinance is a work in progress.</li> <li>• Members are encouraged to attend the Council meeting when continued discussion will occur.</li> </ul>

	<p>Expert and almost every single tree removal is assessed as such.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The township is net-net losing trees daily without mitigation and this is lending to our Stormwater issues.</li> <li>○ Updates include mandating that tree service companies must register with the Township and by doing so, agree to comply with our Ordinance. False certifications of trees could lead to suspension or revocation of registration, and therefore a prohibition to work in the township by that company.</li> <li>○ Hiring a Forester as a shared service to check on the certified tree health assessments.</li> <li>○ Allowing for Ash Trees (highly susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer) and Tree of Heaven Trees (invasive and susceptible to Lanternflies) to be removed without mitigation.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>c) Planting Recommendations and Invasive Species Ordinance: (Tabled)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Manager Cavallo is in receipt of both lists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates as they become available.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Plan Review</b></p> <p><b>a) Final Plan Review for Cameco/Pirhl Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Final hearing was on 11/30/2021 and 12/2/2021 where approval was granted for this application.</li> <li>○ The VEC PRC recommended additional trees to be planted in areas that appear to be underplanted.</li> <li>○ Recommended that deer protective devices be installed around vulnerable tree trunks and plantings.</li> <li>○ Recommended that additional green infrastructure be installed in the parking lot grass strips.</li> <li>○ Recommended that additional hydraulic capacity analysis occur around the Pine Street inlets.</li> <li>○ Recommended potential for additional capacity to be added under the parking lots between Building B and C.</li> <li>○ Recommended consideration be given to additional devices such as Filterra to enhance onsite bioretention during rain events.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo Cameco/Pirhl:</b> Sean <b>Second:</b> Brooke; <b>Abstain:</b> None.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All other Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>a) Master Plan Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess and Sean met with H2M planners on 11/15/2021 as stakeholders along with the Shade Tree and Historic Preservation Commission Chairs.</li> <li>○ Q&amp;A discussion to evaluate the important aspects to be considered and included in our upcoming Master Plan.</li> <li>○ Jess and Sean reviewed the questions and ask Commissioners to give responses.</li> <li>○ Jess will forward additional responses to H2M by 12/12/2021 for their records.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess will finalize a memo and forward to H2M by 12/12/2021.</li> </ul>

**Regular Meeting Minutes:  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7 p.m.  
Via Internet Conferencing**

	<p><b>b) Reminder to take the Township’s Cybersecurity Course</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification given upon completion.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) VEC Annual Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess drafted the VEC 2021 Annual Report which was reviewed by all members.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve 2021 Annual Report:</b> Jess <b>Second:</b> Sean; <b>Abstain:</b> None.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to be forwarded to the Council by the end of 2021.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) New Geocache with Cub Scout Pack 31 at Hilltop Reservation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean currently manages one geocache hidden in Grove Park.</li> <li>○ Sean proposes to hide another at the Hilltop Reservation and educate Cub Scout Pack 31 on how geocaches work.</li> <li>○ Commissioners express favor for projects that include Scouting organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean will provide updates when they are available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Discussion with Ashlee Smith (Watershed Ambassador):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ashlee gave an overview of her first meeting with the VEC.</li> <li>○ She suggests enhancing cleanup events with educational topics.</li> <li>○ Suggests Multi-town “Green Day” or other collaborative events</li> <li>○ Suggests organizing a tour of the Peckman to illuminate a real-life Enviroscape in town.</li> <li>○ Suggests further public education on nonpoint vs point pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashlee will continue to attend our virtual meetings and plans to help the VEC at a Green Fair, planned for May 2022.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.</b> <b>Next Meeting Wednesday, January 12, at 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via Internet Conference.</li> </ul>