



**Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing**

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 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		
	DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
1.	Call to Order by Jess: a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Roll Call performed.	<input type="radio"/> None.
2.	Public Comment Period:	<input type="radio"/> None
3.	Approval of December 8, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to Approve: Fuad; Second: Mike. • APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. • Abstentions: None. 	<input type="radio"/> 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 still pursuing proper permits for debris clearing operation at the Peckman River. Township has ongoing meetings with the DEP. ○ Rutgers students have forwarded Mike DeCarlo and Councilmember Holland new mapping data on flood prone areas in Verona. 	<input type="radio"/> Updates at next meeting
	b) Sustainable Verona (Kari): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable Verona met on 1/5/2022. ○ Discussed a pollinator partnership to be formed with Morgan Farms; this could create a backyard program for residents. There are also two local programs that can possibly help to certify private yards as wildlife gardens: NE Earth and the National Wildlife Fund. ○ SV wants to help VEC with anti-idle campaign. ○ SV wants to help VEC with a potential gas-powered leaf blower ordinance. ○ Discussed the Master Plan update and ideas for sustainability. ○ Green Fair date was locked in on Saturday 5/7/2022 with a rain date of 5/14/2022. Vendors are currently being chosen. 	<input type="radio"/> Updates at each meeting.

	<p>c) PFOA Presentation (Fuad)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Fuad Dahan is a P.E. and LSRP who specializes in environmental engineering and brownfield cleanup programs. ○ PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) are manufactured chemicals which form a fluoropolymer coating on products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. They persist in the environment and do not break down; therefore they contaminate our drinking water. They are considered forever chemicals. ○ Health effects associated with PFOAs include damage to liver, kidneys, endocrine systems, and negatively affect growth, development, and reproduction. PFOAs have also recently been linked to increased risks in contracting COVID-19 and a reduction in the efficacy of vaccines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fuad's PowerPoint docs should be uploaded to the website.
	<p>d) School Outreach (Brooke/Jess):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess has emailed Vanessa Reisinger to ask for potential dates to present the project to the VHS science students via internet conference. ○ Due to Covid outbreak, the intended meeting for early this month was postponed and we are awaiting dates for their soonest availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updates when they become available.
	<p>e) No Idle Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess spoke with BOE President Freschi who asked if the Commission would give a short presentation on No Idling. ○ The next BOE meeting is 1/25/2022 at 7 p.m. and after that, 2/8/2022. ○ Jess will attend on the date selected by the BOE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow up at next meeting.
	<p>f) New Geocache with Cub Scout Pack 31 at Hilltop Reservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean and Cub Scout Pack 31 have hidden a new geocache at the Hilltop Reservation. ○ The VEC has received multiple emails from individuals and groups who have already found it and checked in. ○ Consideration is being given to hide more geocaches near the Community Garden and or other public sites in Verona near key locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Ordinance Updates:</p>	
	<p>a) Mini Cell Towers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess reached out to Mayor Roman to inquire when the new ordinance would be introduced. ○ Mayor Roman wants to get it on the next agenda in January, if possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow up when new information becomes available.
	<p>b) Tree Ordinance Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The township is net-losing trees daily without mitigation and this is contributing to our stormwater runoff issues. ○ Suggested updates were forwarded to Mayor Roman with a recommendation that the township discuss them on new business as soon as possible. ○ Hiring a forester as a shared service to check on the certified tree health assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ordinance is a work in progress. ○ Members are encouraged to attend Council meeting (virtually) for continued discussion.

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	<p>c) Planting Recommendations and Invasive Species Ordinance: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Manager Cavallo is in receipt of both lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Updates as they become available.
6.	Plan Review	
	a) No new submissions for January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o None.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Donation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The VEC has received a donation from a Verona Family who won the Holiday House decoration contest, sponsored by the Aloia Law Firm. o The family won \$500 to be sent to the charity of their choice and they could not decide between the Verona Rescue Squad and the VEC. They opted to send to both! o Jess has sent a thank you card to the family for their generous donation and has invited them to participate in our various events throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o None.
	b) Reminder to take the Township's Cybersecurity Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Certification given upon completion.
	c) Master Plan Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Please take survey.
	<p>d) VEC Booth ideas for Green Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Members are asked to think about what the VEC will promote at our table at the fair o Have an enviroscape set up for a demonstration on stormwater runoff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Decisions to be finalized by March 2022 meeting. o Will be added to February agenda for further discussion.
	<p>e) Free Webinar on Stormwater: 1/20/2022, 4 to 5:15 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Webinar titled, "Storm Flooding in NJ: Improving Stormwater Management & Preparedness." o Focuses upon storm intensity, and best practices for coping with worsening conditions. o Features Daniel Van Abs, Jennifer Coffey, Shawn LaTourette, Mark McDonough, and Senator Bob Smith. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Registration link to be emailed to all interested in attending.
	<p>f) Webinar on PFAS to promote to the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mike suggested that Fuad give an extended presentation sponsored by the VEC (Sustainable NJ). o Fuad agreed to make himself available on a weeknight TBD from 7 to 8 p.m. for a public webinar with Q&A. o Mike suggested that we hold informative webinars more regularly to promote education, on Verona's environmental sensitivity and the VEC's involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jess will contact Steve Neale and Manager Cavallo to organize. o Jess will contact Fuad and Commissioners on which dates are available.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:55 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting Wednesday, February 9, at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Via Internet Conference.