

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 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.	<input type="radio"/> None.
2.	Public Comment Period:	<input type="radio"/> None
3.	Approval of January 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to Approve: Jess; Second: Sean. • 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/Flooding; Stormwater; Webinars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Township has ongoing meetings with the DEP and our new Manager, Joe D'Arco, will resume all actions. ○ Sean and Jess attended a Storm Flooding and Stormwater Webinar on 1/20/2022. The main theme of this webinar was NJ's degrading resiliency and our need to both lower the threshold of development, especially in areas that are currently or will, in the future, be vulnerable to flooding as well as a push for communities to employ a stormwater utility. (Sen. Bob Smith) ○ Jessica attended a webinar on planning for climate change on 1/27/2022. This resource rich webinar discussed Municipal Land Use Laws regarding the climate vulnerability and hazard assessment in the Land Use portion of a Master Plan. It went on to discuss the necessity to perform a full build out assessment and a need to update a zoning code to account for areas that will be flood prone in the future. The experts in attendance were Matt Blake from the Office of Planning Advocacy and Nick Angerone, the Chief Resilience Officer for the NJDEP. 	<input type="radio"/> Updates at next meeting
	b) Sustainable Verona (Kari/Fuad) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable Verona's meeting was dedicated to the PFAS webinar. ○ Fuad did a stellar job explaining the nuts and bolts of PFAS and the community responded with multiple questions. ○ Should we produce another webinar, participants should help with corresponding with the attendees in the chat box. ○ Presentations such as these should continue in the future; Jess suggests that Sean lead a webinar on the latest Stormwater Rules and their importance, as well as how they apply in Verona. 	<input type="radio"/> Updates at each meeting. <input type="radio"/> Mike will upload the Webinar to the website. <input type="radio"/> Sean will begin to prepare a Stormwater Webinar.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing**

	<p>c) Water Conservation (Fuad/Brooke/Mike)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Township Water Utility bills are likely going to increase by about 26% due to mitigation for PFAS issues. ○ This is the perfect time to start sharing charts and conservation ideas for our residents on both the website and on social media. ○ Jess had sent a website and infographics to Fuad, Brooke, and Michael with ideas for conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael, Fuad and Brooke are holding a subcommittee meeting to discuss conservation on 2/15/2022 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. ○ Updates when they become available.
	<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. ○ 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 attended the 2/8/2022 BOE meeting for a short presentation on No Idling. ○ The BOE, Dr. Furnari, and the administration were very willing to address this issue, with Dr. Furnari planning to introduce a district-wide No-Idle policy to the buildings and grounds committee. She will keep us updated. ○ Jess followed up the presentation by sending some informative links and resources to the BOE and Dr. Furnari. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow up at when more information becomes available.
	<p>f) Rain Garden turns into Perennial Garden at VCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess spoke with Steve Neale on the prospects of the Rain Garden in front of the new playground at the VCC. ○ One of the concerns that Sean and Jess had from the beginning was that the water source was not dependable, and the area is surrounded by pavement, which will heat up. The location was convenient, due to ongoing construction in the area, but, less than ideal as a real rain garden. ○ Morgan Farms has a plan to grow pollinator plants for this area and will likely have more for us to plant at Grove Park. ○ Grove Park would benefit greatly from a water source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess will set up a short discussion with Steve Neale and DeCarlo for alternate locations and estimated cost. ○ Jess will contact the new Manager D'Arco, to set up a meeting for updates on the VEC and to ensure watering at Grove Park.
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	<p>a) Mini Cell Towers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pending introduction. 	<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 experience a net-loss of trees as mitigation is not happening as much as it probably should after trees are being taken down and this is lending to our stormwater issues. ○ Suggested updates were forwarded to Mayor Roman, Mike DeCarlo, and Manager Cavallo with a recommendation that the Council discuss them in new business at an upcoming meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ordinance is a work in progress. ○ Members are encouraged to attend the 2/28/2022 Town Council meeting for continued discussion.
	<p>c) Planting Recommendations and Invasive Species Ordinance: (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo is in receipt of both lists. ○ This is part of the zoning code and will be discussed at next Planning Board Meeting on 2/24/2022. ○ List should be vetted by certified forester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updates as they become available.

6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 12 Beechwood Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicants installed a paver patio that encroached into the side yard setback and is over on impervious area for the Zone. ○ The VEC PRC recommended additional trees to be planted in areas that appear to be underplanted. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 12 Beechwood Road: Sean; Second: Fuad. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. No abstentions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>b) 43 Summit Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicants propose to add a covered stone porch which will encroach into the front yard setback by 7 feet. Additionally, they will be adding a second story onto their home. ○ The new impervious footprint is less than 250 ft². ○ The VEC PRC recommended that any new downspouts added onto the porch be disconnected from storm drains and be allowed to flow over and infiltrate into the westerly facing lawn. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 43 Summit Road: Sean; Second: Kari. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. No abstentions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>c) 4 Arnold Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicant proposes to subdivide one lot into two, leaving one developed lot undersized and with too much improved lot coverage. ○ The proposed undeveloped lot does not conform to the Zoning Code's bulk requirements either, lacking necessary frontage, and it has a utility easement in a large portion of the access frontage. ○ The new undeveloped lot is a long strip of steeply sloped, heavily wooded land that is continuation of the West Essex Trail. The VEC finds that due to its conditions, it is not suitable for development. ○ PRC recommends that the developed lot's area be increased to conform to the Zoning Code, and that the undeveloped lot's area be decreased. ○ The VEC further recommends that the Planning Board issue a resolution of recommendation to the Township Council to explore purchase of the site to extend the trail. This could be subsidized with Green Acres Funding and or with funding from our Open Space Trust Fund. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 4 Arnold Way: Sean; Second: Fuad. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. No abstentions. 	<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) Stormwater Mitigation Plan Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess attended on 2/4/2022, hosted by the Watershed Institute. ○ It is not mandatory to have a Stormwater Mitigation Plan, however, in its absence, no variances for the Stormwater rules, as per your municipality, may be granted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verona does not have a plan, and therefore, may not grant variance from our municipal stormwater ordinance. ○ Jess describes some further discussion from the webinar on necessities for variances and spatial requirements for mitigation areas. 	
	<p>b) Neonics bill S1016/A2070 Signed into Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bill becomes active in 12 months and will be reviewed every 3 years. ○ It restricts the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides on plant material, unless said pesticide is registered. ○ Only licensed applicators may use registered pesticides. ○ The bill does not apply to treated wood for building, treatment of building foundations, pet care, and ironically, the application to protect agricultural seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None.
	<p>c) VEC Booth ideas for Green Fair: May 7, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enviroscene hosted by Watershed Ambassador Ashlee Smith. ○ Rain Barrel sales. ○ National Wildlife Fund: Certify your yard as wildlife friendly. ○ Treasured Tree nomination (Sean). ○ Animal Skulls (Sarah). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decisions to be finalized by March 2022 meeting. ○ Will be added to March agenda for further discussion. ○ Jess will ask Steve Neale about recycling bins ○ Sean will organize a Treasured Tree list and a request form for nominating a Treasured Tree.
	<p>d) Resolution Supporting Strict Municipal Stormwater Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCA discussing rules on prohibiting municipalities from passing more strict stormwater rules than the State's for residential uses. Developers are the lobbyists on this. ○ These rules are being discussed by the RSIS Board. ○ Jess contacted ANJEC and the League of Municipalities Legislative Analyst Paul Penna, looking for a paper trail. ○ Sean and Jess discussed ANJEC's supportive resolution in support of municipal home rule on Stormwater Rules. ○ MOTION to approve Resolution in Support of the Ability of Municipalities to Adopt Regulations to Protect Public Health, Safety, and Welfare from Threats of Flooding: Jess; Second: Sean. ○ APPROVAL: Roll call was taken, All Members Present AYE. No abstentions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess and Sean will print and sign the Resolution. ○ Jess will communicate with ANJEC as to our passage of the Resolution. ○ We will await further action prior to recommending this to the Town Council.
	<p>e) ANJEC Roundtable: Native Plants/Fundamentals for EC's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuesday, 2/15/2022, at 7 p.m. ○ Series begins Tuesday 3/8/2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess will send members an email on upcoming dates. ○ Must email ANJEC to register.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 9:06 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Via Internet Conference.