

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<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"/> Brooke Berardo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis (Sustainable Verona Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erdal Turnacioglu (Alternate 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri <input 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 public members present.
3.	Approval of April 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Jess ; Second: Michael APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: Sean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Website Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike/Sean have created a Treasured Tree Program page. Mike walked us through the website update. He wants to continue looking for upgrades to the page, perhaps to label the pictures in the collage template. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates when they become available. Jess to write summary of the program and a chart with the best times of the year to see the tree species in the program.
	b) Treasured Tree Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess ordered nine new 5-inch x 7-inch tags and has installed them on the trees. Sean and Jess were contacted by a resident who would like to nominate a Cornus Florida (Native Dogwood Tree) which is probably 60 to 70 years old. Jess wants to move forward with adding the tree to our list. Commissioners agreed. Commissioners discussed characteristics of trees that would qualify trees for nominations. Once nominations are received, two commissioners will visit the site to check the tree for those listed characteristics. Trees to be nominated should be planted in the home's frontage (side yards of corner lots) and should be visible to the public right of way or must be on accessible public property. Mike suggests adding data on the best time of year to see each tree. VEC members may solicit nominations from private property owners. Concerns over the VEC budget to maintain this and other programs were voiced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will order a tag for the Dogwood Tree. Jess will send mike the qualifications and a link to new Chapter 493
	c) Sustainable Verona (Kari) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV met on meeting on 5/3/2023. Students from Montclair State presented on the heat island mapping (Pilgrim shopping plaza, Town Square and the VHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at each meeting. Jess will contact Carol and Kerry for a meeting to discuss action plan for working

	<p>football field) which will qualify as an action on Sustainable NJ action list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC will be helping to draft reports for certification purposes, along with Shade Tree Commission and others. 	<p>together. Kari will attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kari mentioned utilizing students from MSC to help with research on actions.
	<p>d) Scout Project Ceremony/Fairy Trail Event Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date for Ayden's ceremony is Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10 a.m. ○ Reminder: Daisy Scouts and Brownies holding "Fairy Tales at the Fairy Trail" event at Grove Park Saturday May 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates as they become available.
	<p>e) Recycling Assembly (3 R's) Pilot for FN Brown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The assembly was very successful. Sarah did a stellar job of engaging the students and there was a great deal of interaction and question/answer periods. ○ This program should be brought to other schools. Dr. Lanzo and Mr. Waibel both offered to contact other Principals to make the recommendation for their students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when more information becomes available. ● Will contact other principals in near future. School year is close to closing and this initiative may have to wait until Fall.
	<p>f) Poster Contest future plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The poster contest awards ceremony went very well and was so gratifying to watch. ○ Future of the contest: Brooke and Jess discussed limiting the contest to only 4th grade levels. We could place a focus on the younger kids, which would be more manageable. We could divvy up the \$100 prize for a total of four honorable mentions. ○ Sean questioned how we can engage with the Middle and High School students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peckman River Boat Race (handmade boats). ● Rubber Ducky race. ● Haunted Trail walk-through- needs more development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when more information becomes available. ● Mike will contact the Key Club at VHS.
	<p>g) Reminder: National Trails Cleanup event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Peckman Trails behind FN Brown. The Ribbon cutting will also occur that day. ○ Jess will create a flyer for the event; Sean created a signup page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up when more information becomes available.
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	<p>a) Invasive Species Ordinance Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pending introduction by the Council. ○ Commissioners discuss memo to be sent to Council on potential improvements to Ordinance. ○ MOTION to approve VEC memo on invasive species ordinance for the Council's consideration: Sarah; Second: Kari. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean and Jess will finalize memo and send to Council. ● Updates as they become available.
6.	Plan Review	

	a) None.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Nomination of Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is statutory that the mayor appoints the Chairperson of the VEC. The VEC votes internally for the expressed purpose of finding consensus to inform the Manager for his or her determination of these appointments. Nominations were sought; Sarah nominated Jessica Pearson to serve as Chairperson for 2023-2024. Chairperson asks for other nominations. None are heard. Jessica accepts the nomination. MOTION to Elect/Recommend Jessica Pearson as Chair for 2023 - 2024 year: Sarah; Second: Kari. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Jess Abstained from voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email with the VEC's recommendations for the Chair will be sent to the Manager, Clerk, Mayor and Council. The Verona TC will be reviewing rosters of various committees and commission at their June/July meeting.
	<p>b) Nomination of Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations were sought. Kari nominated Sean DiBartolo to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2023-2024. Chairperson asks for other nominations. None are heard. Sean accepts the nomination. MOTION to Elect Sean DiBartolo as Vice Chair for 2023-2024 year: Kari; Second: Erdal . APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Sean Abstained from voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email with the VEC's recommendations for Vice Chair will be sent to the Manager, Clerk, Mayor and Council. The Verona TC will be reviewing rosters of various committees and commission at their June/July meeting.
	<p>c) Naming of Webmaster, Social Media Lead and SV Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Auteri has volunteered to continue as the VEC webmaster for 2023-2024. Sarah O'Farrell has volunteered to continue as the VEC social media lead for 2023-2024. Kari has volunteered to continue as the SV liaison for 2023-2024. Sarah, Kari, and Brooke are reminded to send an email confirming their wishes to be reappointed to the VEC before June 2023. Emails must be sent to the Township Clerk, Jennifer Kiernan and specifically name yourselves as Commissioner whose term expires on 6/30/2023 and that your reappointment would extend until 6/30/2026. (3 years) Erdal is reminded to of the same- naming himself as Alternate 2 whose reappointed term would expire in 2025. (2 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members must send email to Clerk for reappointment.
	<p>d) Proposed meeting dates for the 2023-2024 year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VEC usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except for August. A change to the meeting dates was made for September 2023 to occur on Tuesday, September 12. The following meeting dates are proposed for 2023: July 12, September 12, October 11, November 8, and December 13. The following meeting dates are proposed for 2024: January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dates were found to be acceptable to members. The dates must be sent to Municipal Clerk Kiernan upon for publication. Our meetings will remain on Zoom unless otherwise noticed.

8.	Adjournment: 8:57 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Next Meeting Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Via Internet Conference.
9.	Meeting Minutes Approved: 6/14/2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission	