

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"/> Walter Steinmann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis (Sustainable Verona Liaison) <input type="checkbox"/> Erdal Turnacioglu (Alternate 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (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 July 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve :Sarah; Second: Sean. 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) Treasured Tree Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will order a new tag for the nominated Dogwood tree. Public education on social media will continue If any members have any interest in nominating any trees, public or private, please contact Sean and me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will order a tag for the Dogwood Tree.
	b) Sustainable Verona (Kari) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV joined a virtual solar open house tour program and will host a tour in Verona on 10/7/2023. This will include Prout Funeral Home and two private homes. EMT/Fire training for electric cars, specifically Tesla, scheduled for 9/23/2023 at the VCC. The assembly may be sold out. Their next meeting will be on 10/4/2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at each meeting.
	c) Recycling Assembly Elementary Schools (Sarah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah emailed the three elementary principals. Principal Stuto (Brookdale Principal) responded affirmatively and expressed a preference for a date around Earth Day for an assembly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates TBD. Sarah will update next meeting.
	d) Public Engagement: Junior Commissioner (Mike) Tabled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike spoke with the coordinator of this program from Wyckoff and needs to review notes. Recommends only 2 jr. com/year. They will be paired with a total of 4 VEC members. Parameters, eligibility, and project guidelines to be established. Outreach to administration, marine bio and env. Clubs and all biology class students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit at next meeting.
	e) Budget 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our budget in 2022 was \$1,000 and was reduced to \$875 for 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must form decision on Budget needs asap. Jess will send an email to Jen

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2023, we incurred fees for our website (\$215.64) (3 years; due in 2026) the Treasured Tree Program (about \$150) and our ANJEC fees (\$500) that leaves us with less than \$10 for the rest of this calendar year and does not include the \$300 for the Poster Contest Prizes. ○ Normal yearly costs include ANJEC membership \$500, maintenance of Treasured Tree Program and tags (\$15/tag), maintenance of the Grove Garden (mulch, plantings, etc.) and Trail Maintenance with little to no funds available for any outside projects. 	<p>Muscara and manager with a request for budget increase.</p>
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Stormwater Management Ordinance §455</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In June, new stormwater management rules went into effect; Verona has updated its Riverine Ordinance for Inland Flood protection but has yet to update the Stormwater Ordinance with new rainfall data and requirements for proper modeling and future rainfall data for projected stormwater management capacity on any new site. ○ Jess amended a draft, revised ordinance to send to the Township for Attorney and engineer review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jess will proceed with the township attorney.
	<p>b) Gas Leaf Blower restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC sent a recommendation for certain commercial restrictions on Gas Leaf Blower use to the Council in April of 2021. ○ Other townships are succeeding in total bans, whereas our recommendations were much more forgiving and include commercial restrictions from July 1 through September 30, and December 16 through February 28 each calendar year. ○ Jess polls members to seek opinion on filing a new recommendation and asks for any changes to the 2021 recommendations. ○ The VEC concludes that the existing recommendation should be maintained with the addition of a recommendation for Verona's DPW to convert its landscape equipment fleet to electric over the next 5 years (by 2028). ○ MOTION to approve VEC recommendation for commercial use restrictions on gas leaf blowers and conversion of Verona's landscape equipment fleet by 2028: Sarah; Second: Walter. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean will amend the recommendation to add the outcome of VEC discussions.
6.	<p>Plan Review</p>	
	<p>a) 64 Hillside Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicant proposes to remove a deck, and add a kitchen addition and small decking to the side yard of a corner property; addition will encroach into side yard setback. ○ They also seek to add a front overhand with new front steps and walkway to the home's frontage. ○ The two additions will exceed total improved lot coverage by as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.

	<p>much as 3.7% where 40% is allowable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC PRC recommended that the applicant testify as to any tree removals, that they maintain pervious surface under the proposed decking and that they disconnect downspouts to run across lawn and garden areas ○ The VEC PRC sent a low impact development checklist and recommended proper disposal and recycling of all construction waste. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 64 Hillside Avenue: Sean; Second: Jess. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	
	<p>b) No Recommendations Submitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The following properties had minor installations and upon review, the PRC did not make any recommendations to the land use board: 28 Linden Avenue, 9 Brentwood Terrace, and 48 Franklin Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
7.	<p>New Business</p>	
	<p>a) Walk to School Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk to School Day is on Wednesday, 10/4/2023. ○ Typically, each school runs its own program independently and we invite all Commissioners to attend one of the schools for the event. ○ Jess will send the VPD, Council, and School Administrators a notice that this event will be happening. Public safety awareness and police presence are very important on this day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners are encouraged to attend an event. • Our presence sets a good example for the students.
	<p>b) Composting in Verona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess spoke with and later met with Jimmy Schmidt of Micro Bio Grow. This is a company that consults on how to compost, on small and larger scale sites. ○ This is a developing concept for Verona. The company may be able to offer a pilot program to take yard waste away from a small sector of people that drop it off on Ozone Ave, free of charge. ○ Another potential may be the use of a small area on Ozone Ave by the company. However, we need to make sure that this area is not mapped as registered Green Acres. ○ Many questions need to be answered before we can move forward to pitch the Council and Manager. ○ There are other types of programs that could be put into use, however, we are looking to install the least costly program and set up better municipal habits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.
	<p>c) Tree Planting offered by Verona Rocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verona Rocks raised \$200 and kindly wants to donate a native tree to honor a Veteran who passed away last summer. ○ We planted an American Redbud today with help from Hillcrest Farms. ○ Redbuds grow up to 20 feet in height, have rosy, pink- purple flowers in March and April that last for up to 3 weeks; thrive in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
 Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7 p.m.
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	full sun. This tree should thrive in this location.	
	<p>d) Cleanups and Fall Events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk to School Day: Wednesday, 10/4/2023. ○ Assembly Schedule at Elementary Schools, TBD for 2024. ○ Formation of infrastructure for Junior Commissioners. ○ Cleanup at Park Place (riverside of HBW track) on 10/21/23 from 9 to 11 a.m. ○ Plan to work towards updating the Kiosk at Peckman Trail behind FN Brown. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sean and Walter working on getting kiosk acrylic sheet. - Mayor Tamburro will seek help from the high school club to help re-stain the kiosk, (costs of materials required in advance of any purchase). - Sean is working on a map that will be posted in kiosk. - Jessica, Sarah, and others will work on historic data to add to kiosk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean will form a signup genius sheet for the cleanup. • Mike will form an e-flyer for the event and send to Sarah for social media sharing.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 7 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 10/11/2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	