

<b>Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)</b>		
<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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erdal Turnacioglu (Alternate 2)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison)	
	<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Public Comment Period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public members present.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Approval of September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Mike; <b>Second:</b> Sarah.</li> <li><b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li><b>Abstentions:</b> None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Updates:</b> a) <b>Sustainable Verona</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV led a virtual solar open house tour on Saturday, 10/7/23.</li> <li>This will included Prout Funeral Home and 2 private homes.</li> <li>Working on Silver Certification Actions.</li> <li>Took a vote on supporting the increase for Open Space Fund which passed.</li> <li>Discussed partnering up with the VEC to do an educational talk on composting.</li> <li>We will need a new liaison for SV. Jess asks members who would make themselves available for this role.</li> <li>Their next meeting will be on 11/1/2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates at each meeting.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>b) Sustainable NJ Actions Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Jess and Kerry met to discuss which actions the VEC can help with. There were 6 including The Environmental Commission, the VEC Plan Review Committee, Anti-Idling Education and Enforcement, Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance, Natural/Environmental Resource Inventory Report (2018); Community Education.</li> <li>o I have been in touch with some of the certification members from Sustainable Jersey by phone and email and am in the process of taking the actions in order to gain certifications as per their directives: i.e.: the Council must pass a No Idling resolution yearly to stay compliant. Also, our public education was impressive to one of the certifiers. The Stormwater Ordinance person is in the process of reviewing a sheet that I had to fill out for certs- listing page numbers and sections of the ordinance that are required to match enhancements found in 2 model enhanced ordinances. We modeled ours after one of those 2: The Watershed Institute. We should be in receipt of at least 25 if not 35 points for our ordinance.</li> <li>o The public education section includes our most recent foray into holding elementary school assemblies for proper recycling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess will continue working on completing actions</li> <li>• If we come across an action that other VEC members can work on, will bring it forward at the next meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) Recycling Assembly Elementary Schools (Sarah)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sarah emailed the three elementary principals.</li> <li>o Principals have responded a timeframe near Earth Day for an assembly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates determined: April 2024 close to Earth Day.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) Public Engagement: Junior Commissioner (Mike) Tabled</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mike spoke with the coordinator of this program from Wyckoff and needs to review notes.</li> <li>o Recommends only 2 jr. com/year. They will be paired with a total of 4 VEC members.</li> <li>o Parameters, eligibility, and project guidelines to be established.</li> <li>o Outreach to administration, marine bio and env. Clubs and all biology class students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit at next meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Budget 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Our budget in 2022 was \$1,000 and was reduced to \$875 for 2023 without reason or discussion.</li> <li>o Jess met with our CFO and asked for a 1,500 budget for next year. We may not know what we are getting until March of 2024.</li> <li>o Jess found 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) which leaves us with less than 10 dollars for the rest of this calendar year. (which doesn't include the \$300 dollars for the Poster Contest Prizes)</li> <li>o 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.</li> <li>o Jess in the process of ordering new banner- Estimated cost \$115. Also, we may need new t-shirt(s) and stain / plexiglass for the sign kiosk at FN Brown.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess requested budget of \$1,500/year</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) Cleanup Event: Saturday October 21, 2023 from 9 to 11 a.m.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Members encouraged to invite friends and bring their kids.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members are encouraged to attend.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Ordinance Updates</b>	

	<p><b>a) Stormwater Management Ordinance §455</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess sent a draft with updates to Brian after the VEC meeting last month and is meeting with Brian to work on the Ordinance on Friday.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ NOTE: Verona does not appear to have a Municipal Stormwater Management Plan (MSWMP). This plan is required for the MS4 Permit. These plans typically contain the goals of the township, a discussion of the population and housing developments, surface water quality data, a build out analysis with projections (some of this was created in the new master plan), discussion of any mitigation plans or a description of what a mitigation plan is, regardless of whether the township adopts one, aerial maps that include landscape, boundaries, groundwater, wetlands, watersheds, land cover use, streams, zoning, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update at November meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Gas Leaf Blower restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The VEC sent a recommendation for certain commercial restrictions on Gas Leaf Blower use to the Council in April of 2021.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ A lawsuit against Montclair with several complaints, includes one in which Montclair is accused of the creation of two unequal classes of individuals; VEC's recommendation may create the same issue by banning commercial use while allowing for residential use during certain times of the year.</li> <li>○ The VEC decides to rethink recommendations and wants to review the lawsuit in Montclair before moving forward.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit in coming months</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) No Idling Resolution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor Tamburro has asked that a No Idle Resolution appear on the October 16 Council meeting agenda. We expect that this will pass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Plan Review</b>	
	<b>a) None</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
7.	<b>New Business</b>	
	<p><b>a) WeCare Organization: The West Orange Development proposal and the impact on Verona.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special guests Joe Pannullo and Patrick Laterza of WeCareNJ are given the opportunity to describe the planned construction.</li> <li>○ The Developer proposes to construct 500 units (inclusionary development) in West Orange, but located on the border of Verona, and Essex Fells (top of Howell Drive in Verona).</li> <li>○ Traffic questions remain unanswered insofar as access through Verona's Forest Avenue neighborhood. Estimates of potentially 1100 cars and through-traffic may be introduced.</li> <li>○ Much of the development will be constructed on Steep Slopes and near wetlands; includes rock blasting for site preparation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow meetings and updates on the WeCarenj.com website.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plans include removal of over 6,300 trees.</li> <li>○ Stormwater management has been found to be incomplete thus far by the DEP</li> <li>○ Traffic expert was also hired. Their documents have yet to be made public.</li> <li>○ The runoff from this area will have wide-ranging and severe impacts on all downhill properties, the Verona Park/Lake, the downstream Peckman River, properties along the Peckman and other flood prone areas, including Verona's Water Treatment plant on Commerce Court.</li> <li>○ WeCare hired Princeton Hydro for Stormwater review. The findings thus far include the following main comments:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not complying with the State's new Inland Flood Protection Rules</li> <li>● The applicant has asked that the soils on the site be downgraded to (Hydrologic Soil Group) HSG D from HSG C, to avoid the requirement to recharge the currently undeveloped 120 acres of the site, however, didn't provide the necessary testing criteria (only 14 test pits were drilled in 2023- and they were required to perform many more). Additionally, the SHWT was found to be far from the ground surface and the soils apparently reported conductivities of greater than .5 inch/hour (contrary to their request to reclassify the soil as poorly conductive).</li> <li>● These supposed soils that cannot infiltrate runoff are also being proposed by the developer to be used in infiltration basins and for impervious pavement.</li> <li>● Additionally, the bottoms of many of the proposed BMPs (both infiltration basins and pervious pavement applications) appear to be a lower elevations than the adjacent wetlands. The rules state that BMPs must be at least 1 foot above the ground water.</li> <li>● Water quality treatment has not demonstrated compliance with the requirements of NJ BMP Manual or green infrastructure quality standards.</li> <li>● The water quantity analysis relies on the 1999 rainfall totals rather than the newly adopted site specific County totals compiled in 2019 by Cornell University and adopted into the State Stormwater Rules in July 2023. As a result, the BMPs are likely undersized to handle the runoff quantities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>b) Sean reached to out to Rutgers about the erosion report/evaluation for formation of maps for the FN Brown Kiosk.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean received documents from them and some GIS files.</li> <li>○ Wanted to use this info for the mapping for the kiosk at FN Brown</li> <li>○ The maps highlighted erosion near Verona Park, but did not follow along the river as it flows further away.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The maps highlighted erosion near Park Place rather than near the Peckman Trails.</li> <li>● Sean suggests posting this information on our website.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Next Meeting Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7 p.m.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Via Internet Conference.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Meeting Minutes Approved: 11/8/2023.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission</b></li> </ul>	

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