

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erdal Turnacioglu (Alternate 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison) <input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan		
	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 October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Mike. 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) Sustainable Verona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV met on 11/1/2023. Working on Silver Certification Actions.. Discussed partnering up with the VEC to do an educational talk on composting; perhaps in January 2024. We will need a new liaison for SV. Jess asks members who would make themselves available for this role. Their next meeting will be on 12/6/2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at each meeting.
	b) Webinar on Backyard Composting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess and Kerry met and discussed having two volunteers from Maplewood and Montclair serve as panel members for this webinar. Will reach out to them to see which dates work for them. The webinar will focus on simple backyard composting. We need to speak with the Township Administration to enable the use of Verona's Zoom account for this. Will need advertising flyers for social media and the Township to advertise the event Will need Commissioners to collect chat box questions so that Q and A period can be orderly and most effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess confirms with VEC members that \$75 will be paid from our budget for this webinar. Jess asks members to consider help moderate with Kerry and Jess. Updates next meeting
	c) Public Engagement: Junior Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will speak with the Township Attorney to ask about waiver forms, background checks, etc. Upon approval from Township Administration, Jess will send final flyer to the science club mentors and science teachers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Materials containing the program’s description, goals, components, project suggestions, guidelines for Jr. Commissioners (JEC) and Commission members (VEC) are discussed. ○ The application format and questions are discussed, and the due date on the form was updated to 12/8/2023. ○ The advertising flyer, revised with Mike, is discussed. ○ The parameters are revised to have applications due by Monday, 12/8/2023 so that they can be discussed at our 12/13/2023 meeting. ○ The Program, if we received approval and applicants, will commence at our January meeting. ○ VEC members that want to be mentors are Sarah, Mike, Walter and Erdal. ○ Check with Township Attorney on all provisions of waivers, parental consent formatting, etc. ○ Outreach to administration, marine biology and environmental Clubs and all biology class students (Reisinger, Ramos, and Harris). 	
	<p>d) Recycling Assembly Elementary Schools (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tabled 	Dates determined: April 2024 close to Earth Day.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p> <p>a) Stormwater Management Ordinance §455</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess is waiting to hear from Boswell on updates. ○ There was not a meeting yet, but notes included reducing the role of the municipal engineer in the minor development section, but then adding fees to pay the municipal engineer for approval of the plans in minor developments. ○ There was discussion of removing the 95% percentile terminology, which The Watershed Institute is working on ○ There was discussion in adding requirements for properties that disturb 2,500 ft² to use silt fencing and other appropriate soil erosion control mechanisms. ○ There are other updates that will be discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at December meeting.
6.	<p>Plan Review</p> <p>a) 58 Durrell Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicant proposes to add a pool and patio to the yard, exceeding maximum allowable lot coverage by 13.5% (48.5%) when 35% is allowed. ○ 3,686 ft² of impervious area to be added should be mitigated with Green Infrastructural BMPs; the applicant has suggested installing a lightweight plastic water holding system. ○ GI measure suggested due to mildly sloping property towards eastern neighboring home: placed towards the west side of site to capture runoff prior to sheet flow to neighboring site. ○ Suggested evaluation for seasonal high water table (SHWT). ○ Recommended testimony regarding any tree removal from rear of site where pool mechanical equipment is proposed to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.

	<p>situated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 58 Durrell Street: Jess; Second: Erdal. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	
	<p>b) Everett Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everett Field plans were proposed at 10/16/2023 Town Council Meeting. ○ Plans include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● cutting into steep slopes surrounding site. ● removing trees/damaging trees to remain in steep slope areas. ● adding retaining walls of up to 14 feet high to surround field on three sides, flanked by concrete bleachers, walkways, and patios. ● 52 new parking spots on permeable pavement system. ● a 3,000 ft² fenced playground on the southeast corner and next to the new proposed driveway onto Westview Road. ● two bullpens on the outsides of the dugouts. ● a 2-story snack bar with an announcement booth(2nd story) presumably a PA system to be situated behind home plate. ● Turf to cover the entire infield and outfield. ○ Recommendations from VEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shift field inward to avoid cutting slopes. ● If slopes are to be used, they should have stepped bleachers, as exists today. ● No tree removals from steep slopes. ● Assess the SHWT on site and survey existing SW management on site to allow for the use of permeable pavement and bioretention basins in multiple areas. ● No turf; plant a grass field ● Reduce noise and light pollution by maintaining natural tree cover and sloped surround ● Add more stormwater GI in lieu of impervious surface/playgrounds. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for Everett Field: Walter; Second: Mike. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All members approve. ● Sean will provide data points and send to Jess for final review before being sent to the Council.
7.	New Business	
	a) Cleanup schedule (Tabled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss in December.
	<p>b) Do we want to combine our cleanup to the kiosk restoration (Tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be discussed in December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss in December.
	c) Tree Giveaway for Earth Day (Tabled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss in December.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 9:35 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 12/13/2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	