

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"/> Erdal Turnacioglu
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Bulger (Alternate I)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri	<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison)
<input checked="" 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 November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Walt; 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 PIO and post them to the VEC website.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Webinar on Backyard Composting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The virtual webinar, featuring Virginia Lamb is scheduled on Thursday, 1/18/2024 at 7p.m. in partnership with SV. Jess will share advertising flyers for event. Will need Commissioners to collect chat box questions so that Q&A period can be orderly and effective. Mike has volunteered. Ask Jen is there a Q & A feature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess asks members to consider help moderate with Kerry and Jess. Mike volunteers to help with Q & A.
	b) Junior Commissioner Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The materials were sent to three science teachers, the principal, VP and the Super. Jess spoke with the principal to assure that the information would be appropriately shared with students and parents. Info was shared on social media and with myveronanj.com. VEC members that want to be mentors are Sarah, Mike, Walter and Erdal. The VEC received twelve applications to the program. After a great amount of review and consideration, the VEC voted to choose Cecilia Manis and Nia Pilauri as the two Junior Environmental Commissioners (JECs) for 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will email the teachers, administration, the two students JECs, and will notify the students that were not chosen. Jess will send an email to the two students regarding the January meeting and process.
	c) Sustainable Verona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented a report on Heat Islands and Mitigation at the Verona Planning Board meeting on 12/7/2023. Discussed Target development in West Orange; lack of green infrastructure, etc. Continue to work towards Silver Certification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates next meeting.

	<p>d) Recycling Assembly Elementary Schools/Poster Contest (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The poster contest for 2024 is ready to be distributed to the 4th grade teacher. ○ There is a schedule glitch for the awards ceremony: the Council's only meeting in April is on 4/8; Earth day is 4/22. This presents a slight scheduling issue for the ceremony. 	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 met with Deputy Manager and Boswell (Township Engineer) on 11/30/2023 to continue discussion on updates. ○ 95 percentile terminology was replaced with "Retention Storm", which equals about 2 inches per square foot that would require onsite retention. Awaiting updates from Boswell on how this may be altered to be more stringent. ○ There will be requirements for properties that disturb greater than 2,500 ft² and less than 5,000 ft² to use silt fencing and other appropriate soil erosion control measures. ○ There was a discussion on what sort of documents will be required for minor developments: i.e.: topographical map, project description, calculations, and a maintenance plan. Some were thought to be onerous and this section is being pared back. ○ Another update is a yearly license and inspection report requirement for major developments. ○ Jess is recommending that the Stormwater Ordinance become part of Verona's Zoning Code, to be applicable in all zones of the Township. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at January meeting.
	<p>b) 2024 Planting Recommendation Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC reviews the recommended planting list, as found in Article XI, §150-11.7 of the Verona Township Zoning Code to assess for amendments to the list. ○ At this time and for the 2024 calendar year, the VEC has no recommendations for amendment to the list. ○ MOTION to approve VEC 2024 Planting List Memo offering no amendments: Sarah; Second: Walter. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: Mike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will forward memo to the Council and Administration upon approval.
6.	<p>Plan Review</p> <p>a) 15 West Lincoln Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VEC PRC had no comments on the application for 15 West Lincoln.
	<p>b) 19 Maple Terrace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicant proposes to build a deck over an existing patio, which requires a variance for exceeding allowable deck height by about 2 feet and the allowable building footprint percentage allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC recommended that the Applicant testify as to the utility of leaving the patio beneath the decking. If the space is inaccessible due to the height constraints, the VEC PRC recommended removing the patio to enhance infiltration under the deck. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 19 Maple Terrace: Fuad; Second: Jess. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	
	<p>c) 87-89 Fairview Avenue (tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Applicant proposes to construct two (2) single-car detached garages on pre-existing impervious surface, which requires multiple variances for building height, setbacks, etc. The existing site, in an R-60 zone is over on allowable coverage by approximately 6.6% (46.6% where 40% is permitted). ○ Discussion to recur at January Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC generally approves on the current comments, but the VEC will vote on this at our January meeting.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) 2023 VEC Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2023 Annual Report was reviewed and discussed by members for edits, additional information etc. ○ MOTION to approve VEC 2023 Annual Report: Sarah; Second: Mike. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will sign and forward the 2023 Annual Report to the Mayor, Council and Administration by 12/15/2023.
	<p>b) Peckman Kiosk Plans /Cleanup schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC's 10/21/2023 cleanup was cancelled due to inclement weather. ○ Reschedule cleanup discussion will occur in January. ○ Kiosk plans to be discussed in January. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up at next meeting
	<p>c) Tree Giveaway for Earth Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess polls members for tree giveaway 2024. ○ Members agree to the tree giveaway at Grove Park ○ Members agree that we request 300 seedlings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up at next meeting
	<p>d) Meeting Format for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC will continue meeting virtually for 2024 via video conferencing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions necessary
8.	<p>Adjournment: 9:03 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 1/10/2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	