

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri <input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erdal Turnacioglu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Bulger (Alternate I) <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: Junior Environmental Commissioners Cece Manis and Nia Pilauri were present and contributed throughout the meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public members present.
3.	Approval of December 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Mike; Second: Sarah. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will change the approval date to 1/10/2024 and email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Public Information Officer Northrop and post them to the VEC website.
4.	Updates: a) Junior Commissioner Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VEC welcomes Cecilia Manis and Nia Pilauri as the two Junior Environmental Commissioners for 2024. VEC mentors are Sarah, Mike, Walter and Erdal Nia introduces herself and discusses her interests in our safe water supply, invasive species and public awareness and education. Cece introduces herself and discusses her interests in our safe water supply, clean water (our rivers, pollution) and in preserving green space. She expresses concern with overdevelopment. JECs are asked to mark down important dates that are discussed throughout each meeting. They are encouraged to partake in our open discussions and ask questions. Other VEC members welcome the JECs and encourage them to contribute and make themselves at home. 	<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.
	b) Webinar on Backyard Composting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The virtual webinar, featuring Virginia Lamb is scheduled on Thursday January 18, 2024 at 7p.m. in partnership with SV Jess will share advertising flyers for event. Mike will help with Q&A feature and a test run will occur in the next week with help from our Municipal Clerk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess asks members to consider help moderate with Kerry and Jess.

	<p>c) Recycling Assembly Elementary Schools/Poster Contest (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The poster contest for 2024 was sent to all 4th grade teachers and their principals. ○ There is a schedule glitch for the awards ceremony: the Council's only meeting in April is 4/8; Earth Day is 4/22. This presents a slight scheduling issue for the ceremony. ○ Sarah has reached out to Forest Avenue to schedule assemblies and is waiting to hear back. She suggested the week of 4/8 or 4/15. Once they respond, she will reach out to Lanning and then Brookdale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster contest due date: 3/15/2024.
	<p>d) Sustainable Verona</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV is finalizing Silver Certification uploads. ○ Jess and Kerry attended a virtual meeting of multi-town residents who oppose turf installation and seek a state-wide ban of it. The meeting was attended by the Director of Conservation from the Sierra Club. The group is formalizing an action list and scheduling meeting dates for 2024. ○ May schedule an Earth Day event with the Verona Library- in development. This may include an EV tutorial and a home energy conservation tutorial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates at each meeting.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Stormwater Management Ordinance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess met with Deputy Manager and Boswell to make final updates on Monday, 1/8/2024. ○ 95 percentile terminology was replaced with "Retention Storm" which equals about 2 inches per square foot that would require onsite retention on all retained and new impervious surface. ○ Minor developments will be required to present a topographical map, calculations, and soil/ perc testing results, which may be done in conjunction with any construction. A maintenance worksheet will be formulated for minor development applicants to follow. ○ VEC members voiced concern about requiring Minor Developments to perform soil testing and think it is too onerous and costly. ○ There is a recommendation that the Stormwater Ordinance become part of Verona's Zoning Code, to be applicable in all zones of the Township. The Deputy Manager thinks that this will be adopted into Zoning. This will require Planning Board Review for consistency with the Master Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update at February meeting.
	<p>b) NJ Passes S2186 / A3677</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Bill, which was vetoed by Gov. Murphy, would have prohibited distribution, import, export, or propagation of certain invasive species without permit from the Department of Agriculture. The issues surround cost of implementation and overriding the DEP's authority. ○ Senator Bob Smith has stated that he will reintroduce this for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess has emailed the Council and administration to inform them that the State's prohibitions were cross-checked with Verona's list of recommended Plantings.

	<p>the new Legislative Session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Verona's list of recommended plantings was reviewed, and none were found on the Verona's list of recommended plantings, found in our Zoning Code. 	
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 87-89 Fairview Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean spent a few minutes explaining the VEC Plan Review Committee's duties and responsibilities to the JECs: reviewing plan sets for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment and commenting on environmentally based issues like impervious coverage, plantings, stormwater mitigation, drainage, etc. ○ The Applicant for 87-87 Fairview 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). ○ The Applicant's plans show a trench drain on one side of the property and stated to our Zoning Official that there is a stormwater basin on the site. The plans do not show this basin. ○ The VEC recommended that the applicant testify on the location, the condition, and the capacity of the basin as well as the pipes leading to the basin to confirm that the basin will be an effective means to capturing and storing runoff. ○ Recommended disconnecting downspouts to run over permeable portions of the property. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 87-89 Fairview Avenue: Sarah; Second: Erdal . ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting. ● Walter Steinmann has volunteered to become part of the VEC's Plan Review Committee.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Tree Giveaway for Earth Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess sent the application for 300 trees to the NJDEP last week. ○ Asked if the DEP can pick up the seedlings and deliver to Jess's house. ○ We may need to wait until receipt of trees, but we should add the types of trees with descriptions to our webpage and simply supply a QR code at the clean-up for reference. ○ The cleanup will take place at Grove Park on Saturday 4/20/24 from 9 to 11 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, 4/21/24. ○ Jess asks if any other members have ideas to add to the event. ○ Mike thinks that inorganic materials from old fairy houses needs to be removed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up at next meeting. ● Sean will speak with the Scout Packs/Troops. ● Mike will speak with the Daisy Scouts. ● Jess will send an email to Councilmember Holland to invite her troops to the event.
	<p>b) Peckman Kiosk Plans /Cleanup schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to organize the kiosk rehabilitation. The exterior of the Kiosk is only part of what needs to be updated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via Internet Conference.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
 Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7 p.m.
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need historic information for the trail's formation. A timeline of use and types of fauna growth that have evolved (i.e.: more wetland plantings are growing due to the widening flood zone and wet conditions) (Jess, Walter). ○ Need mapping to be completed (Sean). ○ Dates floated for possible painting party. ○ Installation with new lock, new inserts and new plexiglass should occur at our National Trails Day cleanup: 6/1/2024. 	
	<p>c) Seminar: Where do Essex County's Recyclables Go?:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday, 1/22/2024, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 1 Pine Street, Montclair (Montclair Fire Department meeting room). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions necessary
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:25 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 2/14/2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	