

<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"/> Walter Steinmann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan		
	<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> The meeting was joined by Junior Commissioners Cece and Nia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No members of the public were present.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Approval of March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Erdal.</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 Public Information Officer Northrop and post them to the VEC website.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Tree Giveaway / Clean-up: April 20 from 9 to 11 a.m.;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessica updated the Commission on the Forest and Brookdale assemblies.</li> <li>The State is giving us 300 seedlings (species unknown) for the give-away. Jess will receive them on Thursday 4/18/2024.</li> <li>Mike will come over to help with website updates.</li> <li>Jess and Sarah will set up tables- need help running the event. A Boy Scout may help us set up the tent.</li> <li>The cleanup will take place at Grove Park on Saturday 4/20/2024 from 9 to 11 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, 4/21/2024.</li> <li>Everyone should wear their VEC shirts; we need a new group photo.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>b) Peckman Kiosk Plans /Cleanup Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to organize the kiosk rehabilitation. The exterior of the Kiosk is only part that requires rehab.</li> <li>Jess and Walter discussed a short list of historic information for the trail and a short statement about the ongoing erosion and wetlands development due to runoff, continual flood events and the rising water table.</li> <li>Need mapping to be completed and Eagle Scout installation pictures and data points. (Sean)</li> <li>Installation may not occur at the National Trails Day cleanup: 6/1/2024, but we need to continue production for installation sometime later this year.</li> <li>The kiosk requires stain application, a new lock, the new poster and new plexiglass for completion.</li> <li>Plexiglass will be free.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder: Poster contest Ceremony moved to May 6, 2024 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.</li> <li>Once weather gets a little better, will assess the lock on the back of kiosk</li> <li>Will purchase a few brushes and outdoor dark colored stain.</li> <li>Sean will email Jess all data for inclusion about Scouts.</li> </ul>

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

	<p><b>c) Everett Field</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No new updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates as they become available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) Newsletter: Summer 2024 focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Summer newsletter is underway.</li> <li>○ Sarah, Cece and Nia sent a three-section article on water costs, savings tactics and a comprehensive breakdown of cost to water lawns. Fuad forwarded water use charts for 2017 through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024.</li> <li>○ Draft article on Sean is under review.</li> <li>○ Draft article on the Juniors is pending –project objectives will be included. Adam will complete.</li> <li>○ Ebird.com link has been added on news page.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jess will forward newsletter to Adam to tweak. Also, to complete info on Juniors.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Sustainable Verona</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SV working on resubmissions of SJ Actions; VEC submitted about 120 points worth of actions. 350 points are needed for Silver Certification.</li> <li>○ SV gained an MSU student staff to study artificial turf based upon cost, PFAS, play time, - an overall analysis will be created and will be presented to the Council this summer. Centennial Field will be the location of the study.</li> <li>○ Working on a program to utilize only organic treatment on our grass fields. Kerry has met with the administration and progress is being made.</li> <li>○ Scheduled an Energy Efficiency Presentation on Saturday, 4/20/2024 at 3 p.m. at the Verona Library.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates at each meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) Junior Commissioners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nia: Considers a project to focus upon microbiome diversity in Verona's wooded and green spaces (without the use of fertilizer). Analyze the micro bacteria and the positive impact of native species; educate the public.</li> <li>○ Cece: Considers a project to study and measure water quality; testing of cyanobacteria at Verona Lake and the Peckman River. These organisms usually thrive in warmer, stagnant water rich in phosphorus and nitrogen, which may occur from fertilizer runoff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Projects must be chosen by the VEC's May meeting.</li> <li>● The VEC members were very supportive of the Junior project considerations.</li> <li>● Jess ensured both VJCs that they can contact VEC members with questions or ideas anytime.</li> <li>● Fuad offered his special help with these projects</li> </ul>

5.	<p><b>Ordinance Updates</b></p> <p><b>a) Verona Tree Ordinance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess and Sarah have been attending a Tree Webinar series that shows the vast types of tree ordinances that are being adopted. Some are incredibly strict, and others are very lax.</li> <li>○ For now, Verona's ordinance qualifies as state compliant, but the Deputy Manager still thinks that we can make some changes.</li> <li>○ Jess and Sarah mentioned some of the suggestions from the webinars and pointed out some of the issues that Verona's ordinance has insofar as enforcement and recordkeeping.</li> <li>○ Updates when we begin to move forward on revisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates as they become available.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Plan Review</b></p> <p><b>a) 45 Montrose Ave</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicant proposes a home addition, front porch and back decks and driveway expansion that will increase impervious surface by almost 1,500 ft<sup>2</sup>, and disturb an area of 6,400 ft<sup>2</sup>, requiring stormwater management and HEPSCD controls.</li> <li>○ The variances sought did not include any overage on impervious surface or building area. Variances sought were for building height, retaining wall and deck height, front and side yard setbacks.</li> <li>○ The Applicant showed a concrete detention basin on site plans, but did not attempt to address stormwater management with the use of green infrastructure, as is mandatory according to our ordinance. The PRC recommended that the applicant revisit their stormwater management plans to use green infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Recommended disconnecting downspouts to run over permeable portions of the property.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 45 Montrose Ave: Fuad; Second: Erdal.</b></li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All other Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTAIN:</b> None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) 97 Lynwood Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicant seeks to remove detached garage and rear driveway area and add attached garage, rear addition and patio area: the total improved lot coverage was over the allowable 40% about 43% and the total allowable building coverage exceeded the maximum allowable as well.</li> <li>○ Because they were removing a net amount of impervious surface, they were deemed exempt from stormwater. The PRC recommended adding green infrastructure of some sort, trees, a garden, etc.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 97 Lynwood Road: Mike; Second: Walter.</b></li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All other Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTAIN:</b> None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.</li> </ul>

7.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>a) Review and Approval of VEC Standing Rules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Members review Standing Rules</li> <li>○ Jess updated Council Resolution on designated newspapers and added the CFO to purchase approval process.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to move Standing Rules with modifications:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Fuad.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTAIN:</b> None.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Nomination of Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is statutory that the mayor appoints the Chairperson of the VEC.</li> <li>○ The VEC votes internally for the expressed purpose of finding consensus to inform the Mayor prior to making his or her determination of these appointments.</li> <li>○ Nominations were sought; Jessica was nominated by Mike for 2024-2025.</li> <li>○ Chairperson asks for other nominations. None are heard. Jessica accepts the nomination.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to Elect/Recommend Jessica Pearson as Chair for 2024- 2025 year:</b> Mike; <b>Second:</b> Sarah.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Jessica.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) Nomination of Vice Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nominations were sought. Fuad nominated Sean DiBartolo to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2024-2025.</li> <li>○ Chairperson asks for other nominations. None are heard. Sean accepts the nomination.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to Elect Sean DiBartolo as Vice Chair for 2024-2025 year:</b> Fuad; <b>Second:</b> Sarah .</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Sean</li> </ul> <p><b>d) Naming of Webmaster, Social Media Lead and SV Liaison</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MOTION to Elect Mike Auteri as Webmaster for 2024-2025 year:</b> Jessica; <b>Second:</b> Sean:</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Mike</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to Elect Sarah O’Farrell as Social Media Lead for 2024-2025 year:</b> Jessica; <b>Second:</b> Mike:</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>○ Jessica asks for volunteers to for SV liaison for 2024-2025. <b>Erdal will become the SV Liaison.</b></li> <li>○ Jessica, Fuad, and Adam are reminded to send an email</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Standing Rules will be reviewed in April of 2026 unless otherwise needed.</li> <li>• An email with the VEC’s recommendations for the Chair will be sent to the Clerk and Mayor.</li> <li>• The Verona TC will be reviewing rosters of various committees and commission at a June meeting.</li> <li>• An email with the VEC’s recommendations for the Chair will be sent to the Clerk and Mayor.</li> <li>• The Verona TC will be reviewing rosters of various committees and commission at a June meeting.</li> <li>• Members must send email to Clerk for reappointment.</li> </ul>
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 Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7 p.m.  
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	confirming their wishes to be reappointed to the VEC before June 2024. Emails must be sent to the Township Clerk, Jennifer Kiernan and specifically name yourselves as Commissioner whose term expires on 6/30/2024 and that your reappointment would extend until 6/30/2027(3 years for full members or 2026 (alternate- 2 years)	
	<p><b>e) Proposed Meeting Dates for 2024-2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The VEC usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month except for August.</li> <li>○ The following meeting dates were proposed for the remainder of 2024: July 10, September 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, and Dec 11.</li> <li>○ The following meeting dates were proposed for 2025: Jan 8, Feb 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, and Jun 11.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dates were found to be acceptable to members.</li> <li>• Jess will email these dates to the Municipal Clerk for publishing. The meetings will remain virtual.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) EPA announced new rule for PFAS regulations: Fuad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EPA's Rules call for PFAS levels that are 3x lower than New Jersey's current standard.</li> <li>○ We will need to follow the EPA's new stricter standards; Verona is using carbon filter system vs. ion exchange systems. Carbon filter systems are generally less expensive and less selective, so they capture more types of PFAS vs ion exchangers that are usually more selective and more expensive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No actions required by the Commission.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: 8:31 p.m.</b>  <b>Next Meeting Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via Internet Conference.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Meeting Minutes Approved: 5/8/2024.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission</b></li> </ul>	