

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input 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 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: The meeting was joined by Junior Commissioners Cece and Nia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members of the public were present.
3.	Approval of May 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Adam; Second: Sean. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Public Information Officer Northrop and post them to the VEC website.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Peckman Kiosk Plans /Cleanup Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiosk has been stained; lock has been removed to seek possible re-keying by a locksmith. Jess and Walter need to meet to discuss content for surround of map. Sean needs to finalize mapping, Eagle Scout installation pictures and data points and any other data points to be included. (Sean) Plexiglass and poster board has been cut to size and is awaiting content, printing and installation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lock re-keying in inquiry process Meetings should occur for layout and content between Sean, Walter and Jess.
	b) Newsletter: Fall 2024 focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam: Junior Commissioners articles Erdal: Article focused on the liability of Artificial Turf Sarah: Leave the leaves article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as they become available. Fall newsletter should be sent in early October.

	<p>c) Sustainable Verona</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SV submission made to SJ; VEC submitted about 130 to 135 points worth of actions. 350 points are needed for Silver Certification. Awaiting SV feedback on all submissions. ○ Jess met with MSU student staff to study artificial turf based upon cost, PFAS, play time to discuss stormwater management. ○ An overall analysis will be created and will be presented to the Council this summer. Centennial Field will be the location of the study. ○ Potential interest in hiring a grant writer (Verona may have one at SV's disposal). ○ Discussed complete streets and crosswalk needs on Bloomfield and Linden Avenues. ○ Case in Hoosick Falls, NY and Bennington, VT discussed where PFOA producing companies sued for groundwater contamination, well water, etc. The companies tried to deflect their responsibility by pointing to other area sources of known PFOAS: Artificial turf was pointed to as one such source in both cases. Although it was not successful in deflecting responsibility, the use of this tactic may become more popular among the chemical companies as more and more turf fields are installed. ○ Working on a program to use only organic treatment on our grass fields. Kerry has met with the administration and progress is being made. ○ Commission discussed the PFOA and PFAS contaminants found in artificial turf and strategies to uphold major development stormwater management regulations for these developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates at each meeting.
	<p>d) Junior Commissioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nia: microbiome diversity in Verona's wooded and green spaces (without the use of fertilizer). Progress Update: Bio-controllers research underway. May want to test nitrogen content near invasive and native species for comparison. ○ Cece: water quality; testing of cyanobacteria at Verona Lake and the Peckman River. Progress Update. Using a letter of concern sent to the Council about Verona Lake to form an outline for specific issues to be addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must be chosen by the VEC's May meeting. • Updates every month.
	<p>e) Everett Field Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans are forthcoming. ○ Discussion had on multiple volunteers who are donating services to the Township to mitigate cost of upgrades. ○ VEC members voice opposition to a second story announcement booth and to the need for any sort of public announcement system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates when they become available.

5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p> <p>a) Verona Tree Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.
6.	<p>Plan Review</p> <p>a) 30 Pompton Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant seeks to renovate an existing building (Chase Bank) for use as a Starbucks Coffee. Applicant does not plan to disturb any portion of the property for this change of use application. ○ The property's current condition is nonconforming to Verona's Zoning code on property coverage, having 89% when 80% is allowable and on the property's buffer zone, having about 3 feet of a planted buffer, when 15 feet is required. The property, developed well before 2004 and does not contain any modern stormwater management BMPs. ○ The PRC recommends that the Applicant revise the driveway on the west side of the building to be a one way in order to expand the buffer area. This would create more permeable surface that will help with both current deficiencies and aid in infiltration of runoff. ○ Provide a planting list for the buffer zone according to Verona's Recommended Plant Selection list. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 30 Pompton Avenue: Sean; Second: Erdal. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	
7.	<p>New Business:</p> <p>a) Potential Subcommittee Formations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean recommends that a check list be made for clean-up events ○ Jessica will draft a bullet list of steps to take in organizing these events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion at next meeting.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:23 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 7/10/2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	