

Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Bulger </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Peña </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input type="checkbox"/> Open Seat (Alternate I) </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Deo (Alternate II) </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison) </div>		
	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"> None
3.	Approval of May 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Walter; 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion to use the large poster board as a backdrop to smaller, seasonal updates with a few permanent printouts for the kiosk. Jess, Walter, and Sean still need to meet to discuss content and design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lock replacement awaiting further discussion. Meetings should occur for layout and content between Sean, Walter, and Jess.
	b) Newsletter Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer newsletter goes out 6/12/2025. Fall Newsletter planning: Weed of the week; pictures of wildlife in our neighborhoods; Sarah O'Farrell article. If the Summer native/Invasive tour comes together, we should cover that as well. If Trey gets a cleanup organized, we will do a short focus on their service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update next meeting.
	c) Sustainable Verona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ciel energy audits are ongoing, and residents are encouraged to have their home audited for energy efficiency. Cost is \$50.00 and the audits take about 4 hours. A follow up virtual meeting to discuss options will take about an hour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as available.
	d) Junior Commissioners' Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trey: Interest in a cleanup; perhaps the West Essex Trail head and potential interest in a letter from the Verona Ecology Club to the Township of West Orange regarding preserving the 120 acres at the West Essex Highlands. Noella has dropped out of the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as available. Jess will send some suggestions to Trey via email.

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	e) Invasive / Native Plant Walk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Essex Trail or Hilltop; Sarah will investigate both and will also visit Watler at the pool to discuss a pool walk with some children members. Can use the sticks from the Native plant sale to mark invasive and native species along any trail walks. Discussion on other details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah and Kelly will plot out a trail and audit the area for plants to point out.
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	a) Tree Ordinance (Tabled until new updates) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last update was in January 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates when they are available.
	b) Resolution 2025-01: Preservation of the West Orange Highlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resolution is discussed, and a vote is taken. The resolutions passes 5-0 with all present members voting in favor of passage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will send the resolution to the West Orange and Verona Officials listed within the Resolution.
6.	Plan Review	
	NONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action
7.	New Business	
	a) Cleanups and Future Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed a cleanup at the West Essex Trail Head. Trey may seek to visit the site with the Ecology club to do some clean up. He will keep in touch with us and if they move forward, will take pics of the crew. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended for all members. Jess and Sarah will investigate the WE trail head and Park Place sites.
	b) Discussion on ordering warmer weather VEC attire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will speak with Academy Apparel about potential order and pricing/embroidery. Sarah will visit the Presbyterian Sale to seek any potential gently used vests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans in the works
8.	Adjournment: 8:28 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Via Internet Conference.
9.	Meeting Minutes Approved: 7/9/2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will upload approved minutes to VEC website and forward to Verona's PIO.