

2/7/24 Sustainable Verona - Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Kerry Bass

a) Open Public Meeting Act Compliance Statement

2) ROLL CALL

- Kerry Bass
- Dan Murray
- Jack McEvoy (zoom call)
- Christine Liaukus
- Jami Bjornstad-Bal
- Carol Thomas (Shade Tree Liaison)

3) ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

- Adopted

4) REPORTS OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

a) Environmental Commission

- April 20th - clean-up and seedling giveaway
- Will partner with for a recycling seminar

b) Shade Tree Commission

- Toured Everett - some trees will need to be removed, plans still not finalized, will try to move away from the back hill.
- Landscape Arch will go out to make a judgment of what needs to come out, then will have an intensive planting program (as part of the project, not Shade Tree Commission)
- Will employ a list of Street Trees
- Applying for \$10k grant for the community garden (one section that will be open to public all the time)

c) Town Council

- Passed ordinance - approval of \$525k for community center playground - plans are complete, will have the rubber surface - maybe we look in terms of heat island (are there trees in the plan?)
- Everett - second design does not have turf
- Lead paint ordinance

5) NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Everett Field

- Kerry sent out articles – there is a NJ turf activist group (will meet tomorrow night)
- Turf making up significant percentage (15%) of plastic waste in the ocean (University of Barcelona study)
- Applied for PSEG Sustainability/MSU student Green Team program to perform a cost/benefit study for Verona

b) SV Public Info Sessions – Recycling (March), EVs; Energy Efficiency (April)

- Will meet with Jessica to set up a recycling seminar in March
- Gateway Group (Essex County chapter of Sierra Club) can assist with sustainability initiatives
- Drive electric earth day in Montclair - want to do something similar in Verona (maybe in the Summer with the Chamber of Commerce - during community markets)
- Earth Day - Energy Efficiency seminar at the Library by Christine L.
- Shade Tree would like to do something during Arbor Day
- Ground cover webinar - Christine will send out the link

c) SJ Actions & Initiatives

d) Sustainable Verona Scholarships – Christine L. leading

e) Millennial Strategies Notification - lists grants available

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7) ADJOURNMENT