

4/3/24 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Kerry Bass

a) Open Public Meeting Act Compliance Statement

2) ROLL CALL

- Kerry Bass
- Jack McEvoy
- Jessica Pearson (VEC)
- Jami Bjornstad-Bal
- Ronnie Denburg (Guest)
- Bob Prout
- Carol Thomas (Shade Tree Liaison)

3) ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

- Adopted

4) REPORTS OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

a) Environmental Commission (Earth Day, newsletter)

- 30 points submitted/achieved, pending 35 (Stormwater Ordinance) 15 (Community Action - Solar tour)
- Will update once unlocked - have 2023 report
- Anticipating 110 points in total
- Grove Park Clean-up 4/20
- Clean communities through Sustainable NJ - grant money (where did that money go) - need a new liaison (used to be Steve)

b) Shade Tree Commission (Arbor Day, Grant)

- Approved as a "Tree City"
- Streets - trees planned to go in
- 4/27/24 - Arbor Day
- Friends of Trees - will look for grants and donations
- Garden - opening got pushed back (waiting for the fence)
- VEC would like Shade Tree to have full review for all public projects in the ordinance
- Put in a budget request for \$75k

c) Town Council

- No updates

5) NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) SJ Actions – Remaining Actions & Deadlines (no July SV meeting)

- Can see which actions are approved or need revision, no feedback yet (expect by next week)
- Next deadline is 5/10/24 then 7/31/24

- b) SV Public Info Sessions – Recycling (March), Energy Efficiency (April)
 - Recycling webinar held - recording sent out, and on the VEC and Township of Verona You-Tube channels
 - 4/20/24 @ 3:00 in the Library - Energy Efficiency/Passive House (Chrstine)
 - 4/7/24 @ 2:30 in the Library - Green Funerals (Bob)
 - 4/6/24 MSU Conference

- c) PSE&G Partnership Program for Energy Efficiency
 - Applied for grant - Track 1 (Residential Campaign)

- d) MSU/PSE&G Sustainability Institute – Green Team
 - Awarded Green Team - kick-off meeting will be next week (Kevin is the main contact)
 - Will study Centennial Park (looking to go artificial turf)
 - Viable alternatives to turf? (may not have time in this study)
 - Have them for 2 months, starts end of May
 - Will present to the Town Council and issue final report
 - VEC will discuss Stormwater Management with the group

- e) Organic Field Management Assistance for 2 town fields
 - “Beyond Pesticides” - provides organic training to land managers - identified Everett and Veterans Field for 2-year pilot program

- f) EVs – National Drive Electric Week (Gateway Group assistance) / Solar Tour
 - Montclair EV fair - National Drive Electric Week (driveelectricweek.org) - helped organized by the Gateway Group
 - Want to set up Verona’s on Oct 5-6 - May be able to charge for vendors

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7) ADJOURNMENT