

<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"/> Adam Bulger	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Peña	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly DiGeronimo (Alternate I)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Deo (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison)	
	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Approval of September 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Sarah; <b>Second:</b> Walter.</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>	
	<b>a) Peckman Kiosk Plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion to use the large poster board as a backdrop to smaller, seasonal updates with a few permanent printouts for the kiosk.</li> <li>Jess, Walter, and Sean still need to meet to discuss content and design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lock replacement awaiting further discussion.</li> <li>Meetings should occur for layout and content between Sean, Walter, and Jess.</li> </ul>
	<b>b) Newsletter Update:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winter Newsletter was meant to give a broad year in review taken from the Annual Report.</li> <li>Other suggestions for inclusion were discussed</li> <li>Kelly D: suggested looking into preparing an area and or planning an area for spring native plantings.</li> <li>Suggestion: Announce the Great Annual Bird Count 2/13/2026 to 2/16/2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
	<b>c) Sustainable Verona</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ciel energy presented their program at the VCC on Tuesday, 9/30/2025. The offer for audits are ongoing, and residents are encouraged to have their home audited for energy efficiency. Cost is \$50 and the audits take about 4 hours.</li> <li>Continued discussion of Skip the Stuff Ordinance.</li> <li>SV continues to hold breakfasts with business community to engage them on energy efficiency presentations and options for them to take advantage of upgrades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates as available.</li> </ul>
	<b>d) Junior Commissioner Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trey: No updates.</li> <li>May work on Kiosk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates at every meeting.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>e) Vest Attire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will be moving forward this month.</li> <li>○ Members discussed moving forward with a purchase order.</li> <li>○ Try-ons to be scheduled ASAP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess will move forward with purchase order.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) WeCare NJ update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Press Conference/Rally was held on 9/26/2025 on Howell Drive in West Orange (on the Verona border).</li> <li>○ Attendees/speakers included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe Pannullo, President WeCare NJ</li> <li>• Ben Dziobek, Executive Director, Climate Revolution Action Network</li> <li>• Chief Vincent Mann, Acting Chief, Ramapough Lenape Nation</li> <li>• Mayor Edward Davis, Borough of Essex Fells</li> <li>• Doug O'Malley, State Director, Environment NJ</li> <li>• Anjuli Ramos-Busot, Chapter Director, Sierra Club, NJ Chapter</li> <li>• William Kibler, Executive Director, Great Swamp Watershed Association</li> <li>• Elliot Ruga, Director Policy and Communication, NJ Highlands Coalition</li> <li>• Michael Brick, Chair, West Orange Environmental Commission</li> <li>• Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission</li> <li>• Barbara White, Resident and Impacted Homeowner</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ A letter went out with signatures of many surrounding mayors and Essex County Commissioners as well as multiple other ECs.</li> <li>○ No comment has been provided by the developer (Wilf) or Mayor McCartney of West Orange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members may attend the upcoming West Orange Planning Board meetings in person or virtually on 10/22/2025 and 10/29/2025 starting at 6:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Ordinance Updates</b></p>	
	<p><b>a) Tree Ordinance (Tabled until new updates)</b> Last discussion of an update was in January 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updated suggestions for the Ordinance include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifics about the Critical Root Zone and more strenuous language requiring protection of this zone especially during construction</li> <li>• Removal suggestion: five live trees in any 5-year period vs two live trees per year. This stipulation would also delete the section that "trees determined to be dead, diseased or a safety hazard by the township forester shall not count towards the total removal limit."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates when they are available.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The addition of the Verona Zoning Board of Adjustment with the Verona Planning Board as land use boards able to hear application when the removal limit is sought by an applicant. This addition is suggested to streamline the process for applicants that seek other variances normally heard by the Board of Adjustment. *Questions regarding whether the applicant will attempt to push their application to one over the other.</li> <li>• Suggestion to add this Ordinance to the Zoning Code.</li> <li>• Addition to present any street tree removal plans to the Shade Tree Commission 30 days in advance for their response prior to undertaking any street tree project.</li> <li>• Mitigation for the removal of dead, dying or hazard trees is mandatory on a 1:1 basis (permit fees will also apply).</li> <li>• Suggestion to make the replacement table a 4-tiered one 1, 2, 3 and 4 tree replacements, rather than the current 3-tiered system (1, 2, and 4 replacements).</li> <li>• Requirement for deer fencing to be installed to all newly planted trees to increase survivability.</li> <li>○ Suggestion to produce media for the better public understanding.</li> <li>○ Benefits of trees.</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>Plan Review</b>	
	<p><b>a) Wedgewood Drive (secondary review based upon new tree removal and replacement plans)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicant seeks removal of 17 trees and submitted a plan that was not prepared by a licensed tree expert.</li> <li>○ Site plans displayed trees with incorrect DPMS.</li> <li>○ Replacement plans were deficient, listing only 22 trees when the Applicant's plans called for 36 and the VEC's evaluation called for 44.</li> <li>○ End result: 33 minimum trees need to be replaced.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC for Wedgewood Drive:</b> Sarah; <b>Second:</b> Adam.</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.	<b>New Business</b>	
	<p><b>a) Cleanups and Future Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Verona Park Cleanup 10/18/2025 from 9 to 11 a.m.</li> <li>○ Walk to School Day rescheduled for 10/9/2025 due to rain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended for all members.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) New Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Next Meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2025.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via Internet Conference.</li> </ul>

9.	<b>Meeting Minutes Approved: 11/12/2025.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission</li></ul>	
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