

## Vernon Township Environmental Commission

Minutes November 17, 2025

Meeting called to order at 07:00pm by Chair Stephanie Vecharello

Statement of Compliance was read out loud by Chair Vecharello

Salute to Flag was led by Chair Vecharello

Roll Call by Chair Vecharello

Stephanie Vecharello (DiBrienza) Chair	Present
Ann Larsen Vice Chair & LUB Liaison	Present
Catherina Sawoszczyk	Present
Barbara Jaggi	Present
Edward Connell	Present

Approval of September Meeting Minutes, minutes accepted as written.

### **New Business**

- 1) O'Neill Apartment Complex 517 Route 515. LUB Vice Chair reported out on LUB meeting November 10, 2025, presentation on the O'Neil Apt Complete. Site proposal pictures and drawings were shared amongst commissioners to review. Chair and Vice chair both attended and reported that there were several questions from audience members that the presenters were not prepared to answer. The presentation was tabled and will be presented more completely on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, LUB meeting. Commissioners continued discussion of concerns with this project. Commissioners are awaiting the traffic study, impact on the views to the National Scenic Byway, water usage, water runoff, effects on the town brook, amount of permeable vs non-permeable coverage of the site and other safety concerns. Commissioners agreed to continue discussion at next month's meeting.
- 2) Introduction of Lena Ouellette, an Americorp Watershed Ambassador attending in the audience. Lena Ouellette offered her support to Vernon as an ambassador to

the Wallkill River Watershed with partnership with AmeriCorps, NJDEP, and SCMUA. Her focus would be on education through presentation and resources especially on freshwater. Contact information and ideas between commissioners and Lena OUELLETTE was shared. Lena Ouellette offering to give presentation on freshwater stream care, rain barrel collection and aquatic life.

### **Old Business**

- 1) The link remains active to current drought conditions on the town webpage
- 2) The annual financial report was discussed with the chair to follow up on the account balance and report back at the December meeting.
- 3) 2026 meeting schedule was discussed with questions to be addressed with the mayor office by the Chair.
- 4) Official Newspaper notices for 2026 will be confirmed with the Mayor's office
- 5) Acknowledgement of the Master Plan & Open Spacer Inventory updates in progress.

### **Meeting open to the public by Chair**

No further public comments. Meeting closed to the public.

### **Commissioner comments**

Commissioner Jaggi voiced concern for the increase she has noticed in the publications of reports of missing pet cats in the area.

Commissioner Sawoszczyk reenforced the suggestion from ambassador Ouellette to schedule a presentation on rain barrel collection of water.

Commissioner Connel reenforced concern for the town brook proximity to the O'Neill Complex project.

Commissioner Jaggi motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Larsen second the motion, Chair Vecharello **Adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by Catherina Sawoszczyk