

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 21, 2025**

REGULAR IN-PERSON MEETING:

The Open Public Meeting Notice: In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to our official newspapers and other publications circulated in the Borough of Old Tappan, and notice was posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

ATTENDANCE:

David Keil – By Phone	Chairperson
Ryan Weaver	
Wendy King	
Patrick Gambuti	
Nora Mann	
Bill Boyce Council Liaison	

Absent: none

Public: none

PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes of the OTEC meeting from April 2025 were approved as written Motion by Nora, seconded by Ryan.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

None

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Spoke about the now owned by PSE&G and un-used. Ryan suggested it become a community center.

Discussed the likelihood of a special Planning Board meeting to be held in June necessary to have the Public Housing element of the Master Plan and the Master Plan open to public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss

Arbor day for the schools by Nora and Wendy

We gave away red buds, there is a Q&A and kids asked good questions

Community Gardens:

There are two vacancies at Old Tappan Road Community Garden - Wendy's old plot is available, and one to the near right

There are no vacancies at the Chestnut Community Garden

There is one inquiry

Tree Sapling Give-Away: Wendy reported Red Buds have been given out on April 25, 2025. I believe Nora helped.

Photo contest: Wendy reported that it will be concluding at the end of May and that there have been two submissions. Nora offered to help.

Northern Valley Earth Fair: Riverkeeper may take over. Jessica Wang from Demarest is still helping to wind the organization down and pass it to Riverkeeper. Northern Valley Earth Fair Non-profit.

Walk / Bike to school Week: National is in October – To be tabled till October

Pollinator Garden: May have missed deadline for Anjak Grant

Tree Ordinance: Reported that there is continued confusion about the tree ordinance and enforcement that should be remedied with better communication. Mayor should add section to news letter updating public about the tree ordinance. Ultimately, we are looking to provide clear guidance to residents while being in compliance with NJDEP regulations at a minimum.

Budget: Will be self funded – Dave made a suggestion that if the town is bringing in money for tree removal... the first \$x will be dedicated to the Environmental Commission and combined with revenue generated from the garden plots would re-establish the operations and capital budget we had in the past.

Hooked on fishing: It is on June 7th from 12:00 to 4:00 and is on the Borough website. Wendy suggested announce the fishing contest at the schools. Don't tell the fish.

O&R List:

We will set up a group e-mail including all members, Bill, and Anna to send list of questions for O&R regarding the methodology for removing the O&R Towers. In general, questions will request baseline existing testing to determine both the horizontal and vertical extent of soil remediation.

Some questions that arose in conversation include:

1. How did they delineate the extent of the remediation under each tower or just one tower.
2. Who is their independent testing agent and are they required to have one?
3. Test groundwater at the tower locations.
 - a. Dave suggested Wendy's sump pump will be a sampling point.

Open Forum Discussion:

Wendy's 2 seconds – She was nominated to present at the Savee - AV Tech conference in California. It is an international organization looking to revolutionize the AV industry to be more eco-friendly.

Patrick's 2 seconds –

- a. Climate Superfund act Bill S3545 – in progress and hasn't gotten past budget committee.
- b. Patrick brought up control of the money from 244 for tree removal and money will be going to shade tree commission / DPW but the MC would take suggestions.
 - a. Bill to follow up with Gail P. and Town's Landscape Architect to find the settlement amount.
 - b. Dave suggested ground penetrating radar to look for artifacts. An estimated price for the whole site is \$2,500.00 and could likely be performed in a day.
 - i. Example of successful ground penetrating radar is the discovery of 50 graves found on the University of Missouri property ther resulted in the shift of a building from the originally designed location.
 - ii. Refer to Dave's testimony requesting the for Phase 1. Cultural assessment for 244 and suggest to Gail P. that at a minimum the radar is necessary to fulfill the request of the EC chairman.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2025

June 17; September 16; October 21; November 18

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Patrick and seconded by Ryan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00pm