

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
June 17, 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	Chairperson
Wendy King	
Nora Mann	
Bill Boyce	Council Liaison
Patrick Gambuti	
Ryan Weaver	(Absent)

PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes of the OTEC meeting from May 2025 were approved as revised with member comments. Motion to approve by Nora, seconded by Wendy. Motion passed.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Several Old Tappan Residents and representatives from Orange & Rockland Electric (Sara, Gwen and Alex) were in attendance. At issue was the project to dismantle and remove the electrical transmission lines that run through Town. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that O&R could have done a better job with public relations and communications by keeping residents informed of the project. O&R provided the OTEC with contact information in case there are questions. O&R agreed to a future meeting with Borough representatives to discuss the project---and to provide a schedule to resident who might be impacted by the work.

One resident asked if they could purchase the property that was former used by O&R as a right of way for the transmission lines. O&R representatives directed that resident to O&R's Real Estate department.

Aileen Ko of NVOT also attended the meeting to discuss microplastic contamination and awareness. Several OTEC members including Bill and Wendy provided suggestions for the project. OTEC members and Ms. Ko are planning to meet in the future to discuss the project.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill Boyce provided an update police hirings. He did not have budget information as it relates to the OTEC but he indicated that he would contact the Borough CFO for information.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss

ADENDA ITEMS:

Community Gardens:

Community Gardens are in full operation for 2025.

Photo Contest 2025. Wendy reported that the prize winners were announced at CDW.

Northern Valley Earth Fair No Report.

Walk/Bike to School Day/Week: OTEC will look to support this event in 2025—to correspond with National Walk to School Day October 8, 2025. Patrick volunteered to spearhead the effort and will look for ways to increase participation.

Hooked on Fishing 2025: The event was held on a rainy Saturday June 7 from 12:00pm to 4pm. Despite the weather, there was a strong turn-out and the kids had fun. Thanks to Ryan Weaver for organizing and implementing the event.

OTEC Budgets: the EC seeks clarification on its 2025 budget which reportedly is generated from fees collected from community garden members. There was a question on whether the fees collected for tree removal permits should also go the Environmental Commission. Also, will the salary for the EC Recording Secretary be included into the EC budget as it has been for the past year or two?

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum, discussions regarding:

-Patrick revisited our past discussion regarding how to use the fees collected from the tree cutting to be done at 244 Old Tappan Road. A replanting approach will be discussed in further meetings.

The lack of a Cultural Assessment at 244 Old Tappan Road was discussed. The idea of hiring a company to use ground penetrating radar and metal detection to search for artifacts and potential gravesites was suggested as an alternative to a traditional Cultural Assessment

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2025

September 16

October 21

November 18

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Nora and seconded by Wendy and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: