

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2024**

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
Larry Weil	
Nora Mann	
Wendy King	

Absent:	Bill Boyce	Council Liaison
	Barbara DiTrolio	
	Ryan Weaver	

PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes from the February 2024 meeting were approved as written.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Cherie Fonorow was in attendance as members of the public.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill did not attend the meeting however, Dave reported that he and Larry spoke to Bill last week. Bill advised that members of the Environmental Commission are encouraged to review the 2016 Master Plan and recommend changes. Changes would be brought to a yet-to-be-appointed commission by the Mayor.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss

AGENDA ITEMS:

Budget: In Bill Boyce's absence, there were no updates on the status of the OTEC Budget for 2024.

OTEC Membership: Larry Weil and Nora Mann were both present at the meeting and both received and signed a copy of their Oaths of Office. The signed copies were left at Borough Hall for filing.

Community Gardens: Larry provided updates on the Community Gardens at Old Tappan Road and Central Avenue citing that there have been drop-outs in both gardens and plots are opening up for people on the Waiting List. Larry still needs to hear from some garden members but he expects the gardens to be opened on April 1. Dave said he would change the gate lock combinations and share them with Larry—who will then share them with garden members.

Tree Sapling Give-Away: Wendy Reported progress, She intends to order the tree saplings soon and notify the school for an April 26 give-away. Cost is about \$80 for 50 saplings. Nora said she would assist.

Photo Contest: it's back-on for 2024. Wendy reported progress is being made for the 2024 Photo Contest which will begin on or around Earth Day (April 22). Details to follow.

Northern Valley Earth Fair: No updates to report. The organizations last meeting was held virtually in November 2023. There are on-going discussion about the future of the organization. It was noted that NVEF funds could be used to hire speakers and educators to hold seminars and lectures on environment-related topics.

Walk/Bike to School Day/Week: OTEC will look to support this event in 2024—to correspond with National Walk to School Day October 2, 2024. The OTEC may also consider a Walk School event sometime in May or June as well. Barbara (not in attendance) will be contact to share last year's flyer so that it can be updated for 2024.

Pollinator Garden: Bill Boyce reported (via text message) that plant suppliers will be taking orders in about one month. We'll revisit this matter at the April 2024 meeting.

O'Brien Application: Dave reported that Borough Hall had advised that the O'Brien's bonds were being released back to them. There was an understanding that the property owner would not have to replace any of the trees that had been taken down for the construction of the new home.

Hooked on Fishing 2024: The OTEC registered to host the NJDEP Hooked on Fishing Contest at Bonnabel Park. The event will take place on either Saturday June 1 or Sunday June 2.

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum,

-Master Plan: as part of the Old Tappan Master Plan revisions, Larry provided information on how emerging technologies in energy, energy storage, the electrical grid, cryptocurrency, manufacturing, EV's, artificial intelligence and others will affect the futures of Old Tappan and the nation. He will be encouraging a movement to maximize the transfer of energy to renewable sources. He would also like to see residents become more self sufficient when it comes to energy production and use.

-Tree Ordinance: it was noted that the new Tree Ordinance was passed by the Mayor & Council.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2024

April 16

May 21

June 18

September 20

October

November 19

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Dave and seconded by Larry and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: