

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
October 19, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING REGULAR MEETING: In person and via ZOOM**

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 the notice was posted on the Borough Hall website.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Environmental Commission:

David Keil, Chairperson  
Larry Weil  
Bill Howe  
Gene Kosmark  
Ryan Weaver

Absent:

Melanie Rie, Vice Chairperson  
Gary Mascolo  
Barbara DiTrolio  
Norn Mann

Green Team:

Anna Haverilla  
Wendy King

Council Liaison:

William Boyce

**PRIOR MINUTES:**

A motion by Bill Howe, seconded by Ryan Weaver to approve the minutes of September 21, 2021, all eligible voted yes and the motion carried.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:**

Councilman Boyce updated everyone on the following town issues:

- Councilman Boyce brought in a rendition he did of the new Community Garden based on the topography that was provided by the Borough Engineer. Discussion was held regarding the work that needs to be done and where the new water service should be located. Application was made with Suez for a new service more work needs to be done with the application. Discussion was held regarding where the best location for the water service would be. Copy of rendition is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.
- Discussion was held regarding the tree ordinance revisions. The Councilman would like to have more work done on it before bringing it back to the M&C for review. Maybe making it a bit stricter and also setting up a permit that has to be issued and any fees would go into replenishing town trees. There would also have to be an enforcing/reviewing agency. The

thought is leaving the Shade Tree Committee as is because their mission is all the trees within the right of town and any trees that the town plants. Maybe starting a Tree Preservation Committee under the Environmental Commission who would be the enforcing agent for any tree removal permits.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **Paper Shredding:** was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm at the DPW parking lot. It was reported that it was not well attended.
- **National Walk to School:** was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> – no update from members but a member of the public mentioned that she saw a lot of children walking to school that day.
- **Adopt a Road Program:** No update yet.
- **BCUA Hazardous Waste Disposal:** was held on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at BCC. Bill Howe mentioned that it was quite busy there. Anna mentioned that the BCUA's Hazardous Waste Disposal dates are on our website calendar.
- **Community Choice Aggregation:** The County is still working on it.
- **Community Garden:** Larry mentioned that the garden is mostly cleaned up but still is being used by some. Once everyone is done it will be closed. Larry is worried about fining someone if they do not follow the rules. Anna said that the rules have to be strengthened and all consequences should be followed. The Environmental Commission has the authority to make the rules for the garden and have each applicant sign saying that they are liable if they do not follow them.
- **Earth Fair 2022:** Will not be happening – it is postponed until 2023.
- **Audubon Grant:** Thanks to Barbara DiTrollo, who was able to obtain a \$1500 grant from the Audubon Society, there will be a pollinator garden placed around the new community garden.
- **Trees:** Discussion was had regarding the strengthening of the town tree ordinance. It seems the ordinance covers developments but does not cover private property. Any owner is able to cut down all the trees on their property without getting any permits or replacing. Discussion was held regarding the Green Team. Thought is to disband since the mission is no longer a necessity. The Environmental Commission can set up a Tree Preservation committee that can work specifically on updated the OT tree ordinance.
- **Photo Contest:** Wendy King shared the photos of the winners with the schools and the pictures were all posted on the town website. All gift cards have been distributed to the winners. It was good to see that there were more contestants this year's than last year.

- **NexTrex Recycling Challenge:** Wendy mentioned that Charles DeWolf school will be participating in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge again this year -- October 1, 2021, through April 15, 2022. This program was a great success last year and CDW collected the most recyclables in their school-size category, allowing them to win a bench for their outdoor area.
- **EPS Styrofoam Collection Drive:** Being held in Mahwah. It would be nice to hold one of these in Old Tappan also.

### **OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Meeting was opened to the public by Chairman Keil.

Jessica Weiss, a resident from Old Tappan, mentioned that she knows many people who do not recycle and would like to know what the town can do about it. Discussion was held regarding getting everyone to recycle.

Cherie Fonorow voiced her concerns on a project on Old Tappan that is a new application in front of the Planning Board. The property in question has wetlands and wildlife on it and she would like to see that land stay undisturbed and preserved. Much discussion was held regarding finding or applying for grants to fund the purchase of the property by the Borough. Timing is of the essence since the application is going in front of the Planning Board next month. All options will be looked at. Councilman Boyce reiterated that residents need to attend the Planning Board meeting to voice their concerns.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Larry seconded the motion, everyone was in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:46pm.

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2021:**

November 16<sup>th</sup>

December- No meeting

### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Anna Haverilla