

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
November 18, 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	
Ryan Weaver	
Bill Boyce	Council Liaison
Patrick Gambuti	
Nora Mann	

PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes of the OTEC meeting from October 2025 were approved as revised with member comments. Motion to approve by Patrick, seconded by Ryan. Motion passed.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

No one from the Public was present at the meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill Boyce advised of upcoming changes in the Old Tappan Police Department with the retirement of the present chief and captain.

Bill also reported the Borough would be considering green infrastructure in the design and construction of a new DPW facility at Russell Avenue.

He also mentioned that a Dog Park was being considered for Stone Point Park. Based on his experiences at Westwood Dog Park, Ryan cautioned against using Green Acres monies for a Dog Park as it comes with an agreement that anyone can use the park---not residents only.

As a follow up from the October meeting, it was agreed that the OTEC would request funding for a new laptop in its budget request for 2026. The laptop would replace one that was used at

Borough Hall to tabulate the energy generated from the solar panels on the Borough Hall at the Fire House

Schedule for OTEC Meeting for 2026: The OTEC has set the following schedule for it's meetings in 2026; subject to Borough approval. All meetings will be held at Borough Hall at 7:30pm on the dates proposed below:

January 21
February 10
March 17
April 21
May 19
June 16
September 15
October 20
November 17

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss.

ADENDA ITEMS:

Community Gardens:

Another successful year for the Community Gardens. The water to both gardens has been turned off for the season. Looking forward to Spring 2026.

Photo Contest . The OTEC plans to sponsor the contest again next year.

Northern Valley Earth Fair: No Report

Walk/Bike to School Day/Week: Patrick corresponded with School Officials (Danielle) about increasing the frequency of Walk to Schools Days—specifically a program that we hope becomes “Walk to School Wednesday (weather permitting).” School officials expressed some openness to the idea. Patrick indicated that he would maintain an open dialog with school officials. Hoping to re-engage on this initiative during the spring semester.

Hooked on Fishing : Old Tappan will be registering for the 2026 event on the NJDEP website shortly. The tentative dates are June 6 and/or June 7.

Town Day: No Report

OTEC Budgets: Bill said he would check with the Borough CFO to determine whether the salary for the OTEC Recording Secretary is being reinvested into the OTEC Budget.

For 2026 OTEC intends to submit budget requests to cover costs related to:

- a new laptop/monitor for the solar panel system (previously mentioned under the Council Liaison Report)
- a pollinator garden at the Old Tappan Library
- a program to remove invasion plants at the golf course
- Plantings to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States
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Arbor Day Tree Sapling Give-away: No report. Tabled to the January meeting, Arbor Day 2026 is April 24.

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum, discussions regarding:

Deer Management: continued discussions on deer management emphasizing that a multi-town approach to deer management seems to be more effective than a town to town approach. Dave shared an ordinance from China Grove, North Carolina called Urban Archery---that permits residents to bow hunt on their own properties. Bill to share the ordinance with the M&C.

-Invasive Species removal: Ryan agreed to coordinate with the Scouts in a program to remove invasive plants from the golf course. Bill suggested retaining an expert who can identify the invasives so that a removal plan can be developed. Bill has a contact who might volunteer their services. More to come but the hope is to expand the program in successive years to include Stone Point Park, Dorotockys Creek and other public lands.

Removal of Town Trees at 236 Old Tappan Road: several OTEC members commented about the removal of Borough owned trees at 236 Old Tappan Road. Bill said that he was aware of the removals and would check with Borough Officials to see if permits had been secured.

Bergen Hub: Dave inquired whether EC members were receiving correspondence from Bergen Hub regarding County-wide environmental initiatives and activities. Wendy agreed to send Bergen Hub contact information to interested OTEC members—which she did during the meeting. Members indicated that they would research a Dark Skies initiative (Nora) and a Solar Panel Review program through Bergen Hub.

Master Plan: With the OT Master Plan up for renewal in 2026, Dave mentioned that committee that is spearheading that effort should be advised to include a “green review” of future development proposals that would include things such as: solar panels, EV charging stations, green roofs, rain gardens and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Bill made a note to raise this at the next M&C meeting.

-Bamboo stand at Wilbur: several OTEC members mentioned that the bamboo is expanding into adjacent properties. DPW should be advised to inspect the area.

Microplastics: Wendy mentioned that she logged in for the URI Microplastics webinar.

Pollinator Garden at the Library: often discussed at OTEC meetings, Wendy advised that she is on the Library Board and would talk to other board members about the feasibility of a pollinator garden at the library. Dave will ask Closter what it took to building their garden and will report progress at the next meeting.

Freedom Apples Trees: As suggested by an Old Tappan Resident, Dave mentioned the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States and asked the OTEC their thoughts on purchasing several Freedom Apples Trees (or other native species) for planting in Old Tappan Parks for July 4, 2026. The EC unanimously agreed.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2026

January 21, 2026

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Nora and seconded by Ryan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: