

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 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	Chairperson
Wendy King	
Ryan Weaver	
Bill Boyce	Council Liaison
Patrick Gambuti	
Nora Mann	
Aileen	Member of the Public

PRIOR MINUTES:

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

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Aileen spoke about microplastics and her interest in making a presentation. She has generated a lot of interest from on-line sources but would like to engage the local community in microplastic awareness. A potential presentation at a local venue was discussed. Patrick said that he would provide Aileen with OTEC member e-mails so that she can communicate/coordinate with us.

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COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill Boyce provided an overview of potential deer control measures that the Borough may be considering.

-He also mentioned that a schematic design has been prepared to replace the DPW building on

Russel Avenue as the building is falling into disrepair and in places may be structurally compromised.

O TEC Members asked whether the new design would include solar panels—like we have at the firehouse and Borough Hall. That raised a question about the existing solar system and what happened to the original display board showing the public how much energy the panels generate.

-244 Old Tappan Road: Bill reported that there is a new developer involved but there are still some conditions of approval that have not yet been satisfied. Until those conditions are satisfied including payment for tree replacement, the project will not move forward.

Bi-State Plaza: Bill report that mixed-use overlays have been developed for the property

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss.

ADENDA ITEMS:

Community Gardens:

With the season coming to an end, activities at the community gardens are scaling back. With a few hundred dollars to spend before the end of the calendar year, gardens will be asked if they need any equipment or tools.

Photo Contest 2025. The O TEC plans to sponsor the contest again next year.

Northern Valley Earth Fair: meeting of select Earth Fair Members was recently held, however there has been no correspondence on whether the Fair will be attempted in 2026.

Walk/Bike to School Day/Week: By all accounts the event was well attended this year. Parents, school officials, crossing guards and OT Police expressed favor with the event. With the success of the program, O TEC Members suggested a regularly scheduled “ Walk to School Wednesday”- --weather permitting, that could begin in spring 2026. Patrick volunteered to speak with the School about this suggestion.

Hooked on Fishing 2025: No Report but if the DEP sponsors the event next year, O TEC intends to participate.

Town Day: re-schedule to October 25. Please let the Borough know if anyone is available to spend an hour or two to speak with residents.

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

Arbor Day Tree Sapling Give-away: No report

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum, discussions regarding:

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.

-review of the article circulated about Data Centers and their impact on local resources.

-discussion about the home on Autumn Lane that was built in the Dorotockey flood plain. Partick reported that the property has been For Sale for a few years now.

-Ryan Weaver mentioned that the Scouts need to earn community service e hours and suggested a parks clean up. OTEC members are tasked to review areas around town to see if there are any areas in need of cleaning. Another consideration is the removal of invasive plants at the Old Tappan Golf Course.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2025

November 18

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Nora and seconded by Ryan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: