

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
January 21, 2026**

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
Patrick Gambuti
Wendy King
Nora Mann
Bill Boyce, Council Liaison

Ryan Weaver (Absent)

PRIOR MINUTES:

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

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Aiden Gallo and his father appeared before the Commission to discuss the potential for a Native Plant Garden at the Library. Based on OTEC discussions last Fall, Aiden was put in contact with Wendy King (a Library Board Member) to see whether we can combine Aiden's idea with the OTEC concept for a pollinator garden at the Library. Contact information was shared. More to come.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill Boyce advised of a recent house break-in on Orangeburg Road where trail cameras may have been used to gauge when residents were not at home.

From last meeting, Bill mentioned that a Dog Park was being considered for Stone Point Park. No updates to report.

Borough & Council are in the Budget season. OTEC's budget for 2026 will be discussed soon. See details below in the OTEC budget report.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss.

ADENDA ITEMS:

Community Gardens: 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: Tabled to Spring as it is too soon to contemplate walking to school day coordination.

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: 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

Arbor Day Tree Sapling Give-away: Arbor Day 2026 is April 24. Wendy will order saplings soon. One source could be the New York State Tree Service. Dave sent Wendy the contact information, but he was not sure whether the service would sell to buyers outside of New York State.

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum, discussions regarding:

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. Patrick volunteered to check with Bob Rusch on the status.

Bergen Hub: A presentation on “Dark Skies” is being held at the next Bergen Hub meeting on January 27 at the Borough Hall in Rutherford (176 Park Avenue) from 7 – 8:30pm.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2026

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: David Keil, Chairperson