

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 10, 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
Wendy King	
Patrick Gambuti	
Nora Mann	
Ryan Weaver	
Bill Boyce	Council Liaison (absent)

PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes of the OTEC meeting from January 2026 were approved as written. Motion to approve by Nora, seconded by Patrick. Motion passed.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC: No one from the Public was present at the meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: (Bill Boyce)

Bill Boyce was absent from the meeting but reported earlier in the day that no budget was allocated to the Environmental Commission for 2026.

Without further information, OTEC will operate with the understanding that fees collected from Community Garden members would be available to the Commission. In that same spirit, the OTEC makes a request to the Council Liaison recommending that monies collected by the Borough for tree removal should also be available to the Commission. The question of money originally allocated for a Recording Secretary for other OTEC use remains unanswered.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences to discuss.

ADENDA ITEMS:

Community Gardens: Looking forward to Spring 2026. Dave will send out an e-mail to all 2025 Garden Members announcing that Applications and Hold Harmless Agreements for the 2026 season are now available on the Borough website.

Photo Contest: The OTEC plans to sponsor the contest again this year---although it remains to be seen what prize monies might be available for contest winners.

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 10, 2026

Northern Valley Earth Fair: No Report. Tying in with an opportunity to build a pollinator/butterfly garden at the Library, Dave intends to submit a proposal to the Commissioners of what appears to be a defunct Northern Valley Earth Fair, to request that any funds remaining within that organization be used for a new garden at the Library. Wendy has a meeting with the Library Board in the near future and will inquire whether a pollinator/butterfly garden at that location is viable.

Walk/Bike to School Day/Week: Tabled to Spring

Hooked on Fishing: Old Tappan has registered for the 2026 event on the NJDEP website. The tentative dates are June 6 and/or June 7.

Town Day: No Report

OTEC Budgets: With the news that OTEC was not funded by the M&C for 2026, OTEC intends to apply for grants 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

But it is recognized that grant opportunities might be limited due to OTEC not being a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and no longer being involved in Sustainable Jersey—a former source for grant monies that were used to build the first Community Garden.

Arbor Day Tree Sapling Give-away: Arbor Day 2026 is April 24. Wendy will order saplings soon.

Removal of Town Trees at 236 Old Tappan Road: Based on information provided by Bob Rusch, it was determined that the trees removed at 236 OTR were not Borough trees and that the proper permits were pulled before the removals took place.

Open Forum Discussion: in open forum, discussions regarding:

Invasive Plants at the Golf Course: be sure to involve the boy scouts and the girl scouts.

Dark Skies: Nora did some research on the Dark Skies initiative and provided some bullet points for what individual homeowners can do

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 10, 2026

Sustainable Packaging: Wendy discussed what she's done for over 20 years at her company, utilizing recyclable material and smaller, non-bleached packaging.

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle: Patrick offered ideas to promote R/R/R efforts in town.

Microplastics in clothing: general discussion

O&R Right of Way: now that the transmission towers and overhead power lines have been taken down, what can the Town do with the property? Specifically at Wilbur Drive. Can we get permission from O&R to utilize the property for the public good? Can we remove bamboo?

UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2026

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Dave Keil, Chairperson