

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

**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
Larry Weil	
Nora Mann	
Wendy King	
Gary Mascolo	

Absent:	William Boyce	Council Liaison
	Ryan Weaver	
	Anna Haverilla	Borough Administrator
	Barbara DiTrolio	
	Gene Kosmark	

**PRIOR MINUTES:**

Minutes from the October Meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve by Larry; seconded by Nora. Motion was approved.

Chairman Keil noted that a new recording secretary has still not yet been appointed. He will draft the minutes from tonight's meeting.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

No members of the general public were in attendance.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:**

Council Liaison Boyce was not in attendance but he did provide updates that were shared at the meeting. Updates included the following:

-The Tree Inventory for 244 Old Tappan Road is expected to be completed by Steve Levy in the next few days. Copies of the Report will be submitted to the OTEC before the next Planning Board meeting on December 14, 2022. It was noted that the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the OTEC is set for mid-January, 2023.

Deer Dump: a complaint was received regarding the deer dump located near the hiking trail behind the leaf dump and the Central Avenue Community Garden. The department of health suggested that if the deer dump is to remain, measures should be taken to limit public access to that area—including re-routing or removing the new hiking trail. DPW is reportedly installing signs to prohibit public access to that area. OTEC members plan to meet at the location to see what options there might be for deer dump and/or hiking trail re-location.

-Council Liaison is meeting with the Borough CFO in the coming week to see how unused funds earmarked for the EC Recording Secretary can be transferred to the EC for use.

-Council Liaison reported that the Amendments to the Tree Ordinance were being reviewed by the Borough Attorney. It is expected that the Ordinance may be discussed by the Council at the January Re-Organizational meeting.

Several OTEC members had questions to refer to the Council Liaison including the remaining funds (roughly \$1,300) in capital budgets for the Central Avenue and Old Tappan Road Community Gardens—and what needs to be done to use/encumber those funds.

OTEC members unanimously congratulated Bill Boyce on his re-election to the Council—and expressed support for the idea that the Councilman be re-assigned as OTEC Liaison in the next term.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There were no correspondences to discuss

## **ADENDA ITEMS:**

### **Community Gardens:**

Larry discussed plans for a work detail at the Central Ave garden after the season so that plots can be realigned to accommodate additional gardeners for the 2023 season. The work plan will be developed over the winter so that it can be implemented in the spring of 2023.

Dave reported that he had signed-off on the Eagle Scout Project Report related to the Central Avenue Garden.

A discussion to decide penalties for a garden member who was seen harvesting produce from another member's garden plot was held. It was recommended that Larry contact that gardener to make it clear that such behavior would not be tolerated---and that expulsion from the garden would be the next step.

**OTEC Budget Requests for 2023 through 2025:** Dave received a request from the Borough

CFO to submit OTEC budget requests for the next three years. Dave volunteered to send the requests prior to the December 9 due date.

**TD Green Space Grant:** Information for a grant was circulated to OTEC members before the meeting. Although it was cited that grant award preferences would go to low and moderate income communities, Wendy indicated that she would research whether there might be options for green space preservation in Old Tappan. Two properties were mentioned including 244 Old Tappan Road and Suden's Farm. Both properties are currently privately owned.

**Walk/Bike to School Day/Week:** No Report. OTEC will look to support this event in 2023.

**Pollinator Garden:** OTEC decided on two locations to create pollinator gardens in 2023. Using funds secured with the assistance of Barbara DiTrollo, OTEC plans to install the pollinators at the Community Gardens at OTR and Central Avenue. Plans will be formulated over the next few months.

**Application for 244 Old Tappan Road:** Applicant presented their final arguments at the Planning Board meeting of November 9. Citing the fact that the application has been before the Board for almost one year, the Applicant is hoping that the Board will vote at the PB Meeting of December 14, 2022.

**Amendments to the Borough Tree Ordinance:** See Council Liaison report for updates. The Ordinance is reportedly under Borough Attorney review. .

**Commercial Development in Bordering Orangetown, NY:** Dave presented an e-mail from David Rosen of Buckingham Court. The e-mail indicated that the Orangetown PB has been somewhat more open to Old Tappan Resident concerns. Mr. Rosen indicated that the remaining open items included an easement to provide secondary access to the site in case of fire or other emergency; the placement of landscape buffers; noise abatement measures and systems; and the elimination of references to "Phase II" for the application—which Old Tappan residents strongly oppose.

**Open Forum Discussion:** in open forum, Larry discussed his views on climate impacts around the world—in particularly in colder regions of the planet where glacial melt contributes to sea-level rise, coastal flooding, human migration, increases of CO2 levels in the atmosphere and world population growth. Larry advocates for a climate change planning group so that Old Tappan will have a plan for adaptive action—even if the Borough is not directly impacted from climate-change impacts.

Larry cited the example of Babcock Ranch outside of Fort Myers, Florida as an example of a pre-planned sustainable community.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES 2022/2023**

December – no meeting  
January 17, 2023 (tentative due to MLK Holiday schedule)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion by Nora and seconded by Larry and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**