



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE, FIRST FLOOR**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

Environmental Commission members in attendance at the Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023 meeting were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Heather Barrett, and Peggy Branstrator. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Ms. Barrett

Vote: Unanimous

**Approval of Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes for the June 7th, 2023 Meeting**

Motion: Ms. Barrett

2nd: Ms. Raghu

Vote: Unanimous

**Old Business**

1. Recycling Options for Oxford Public Events

The commissioners discussed solid waste management at public events in August and September 2023, such as Red Brick Fridays, Chalk the Walk, and Hike-A-Thon. They confirmed member availability to staff the waste station and ensured coverage for each event. Commissioners also discussed purchasing a banner for long-term use at the waste station. Ms. Branstrator provided a ~\$90 quote from Lebowsky Tees for the banner.

2. Monthly Monitoring of Landfill Passive Gas Vent Emissions

Staff provided an update on landfill passive gas vent emissions and the solar flare. The solar flare has been in operation for approximately two months. It has reduced 26.9% of emissions in June

2023 and 22.5% of emissions from July 2023, totaling a 24.4% reduction in emissions from both months. The flare burns 98% of methane emitting from gas vent 23, preventing 64.55 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e since its installation. It is worth noting that the landfill emissions for the 2023 summer are low compared to historical data. Commissioners were excited about the performance of the flare.

### 3. Residential Food Scrap Drop-Off Program Summaries

Since the beginning of the Residential Food Scrap Program in 2019, 81.82 tons of food scraps have been collected. In 2023, approximately 9 tons of residential food scraps have been collected, averaging 600 lbs per week. This is lower than the August 2022 collections, which totaled 12 tons and an average of 801 lbs per week.

Given the notable decline in food scrap drop off, the Commission discussed additional education surrounding composting to increase food scrap drop off. Staff discussed sharing composting information on social media at the beginning of September to encourage participation. Staff also shared that Armstrong Student Center will be implementing composting this year through Go Zero Services, which will increase student education and awareness about composting food scraps. Staff has been working with Miami University Sustainability and Armstrong Student Center Staff to coordinate messaging and promote the residential food scrap program to students.

### 4. Agenda Items for September 6th, 2023 meeting

Requested agenda items for the next meeting include a discussion around the next steps following the professional service project (PSP) recommendations entitled “Recommendations for the City of Oxford: Commercial Household Recycling Access.”

## **New Business**

### 1. Electrical Aggregation Contract Renewal

Ms. Raghu provided an update that Council will discuss the Electric Aggregation Contract Renewal at their next meeting on August 15th, 2023. Staff shared that electricity costs will increase significantly, no matter the supplier. Staff also shared that there may be an opportunity to join the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) in the future, which offers electric aggregation, among other resources for member communities. However, SOPEC has higher electric costs than the private suppliers identified through AEP. Thus, the staff does not currently recommend joining SOPEC but is open to additional exploration and future community engagement.

### 2. City Council, Planning Commission, Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board Activities, and Climate Action Steering Committee

Ms. Branstrator shared that the pollinator pilots are doing well and praised Mr. Steve Ohl for his helpfulness throughout the project. Ms. Branstrator shared that there was damage to one of the pilot locations, but the responsible party will pay for repairs.

Mr. Ralinovsky shared that the city has received a 150,000 grant to implement complete street

practices. The Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board is currently deciding which areas of Oxford to prioritize.

Staff shared that the Climate Action Steering Committee has approved the Climate Action Plan and will tentatively go to City Council for approval in September.

### 3. Staff Updates

The Commission discussed the responses to the RFP for the 2024 Residential Curbside Food Scrap Waste Collection for Composting. One bidder, GoZero, responded to the RFP. They propose a \$3690.00 per month flat fee for 0-160 households, equivalent to ~\$24.75 per household per month for 160 households. For additional households beyond 160, costs would increase by \$3.70 per household per week, for a maximum of 240 households. At 240 households, curbside composting would cost ~\$16.03 per household per month. GoZero would provide participating households with a 5-gallon bucket with an easy peel-style lid. The bucket would not be washed per service visit, but participants would receive a new compostable liner per service visit.

Lastly, the commission discussed the staffing change from David Treleaven to Reena Murphy as the staff liaison to the Commission. The Commissioners thanked David for his hard work and welcomed his presence at meetings whenever needed

## Adjournment

### **Approval of Adjournment:**

Motion: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Ms. Barrett

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioners adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next Environmental Commission meeting will be September 6th, 2023, at 7 pm in the Municipal Building's first-floor conference room.