



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 S. COLLEGE AVE.
1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

The Environmental Commission members in attendance at the Wednesday, September 6th, 2023 meeting were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Justin Fain, and Peggy Branstrator. A quorum was present.

Motion to add pollinator gardens, citizen pledge, and member updates to the agenda: Ms. Branstrator
2nd: Mr. Fain

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Fain

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from August 4th, 2023 Meeting

Motion: Mr. Fain

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

1. Staff Updates

- Monthly Monitoring of Landfill Passive Gas Vent Emissions
- Residential Food Scrap Drop-Off Summaries

Staff provided an update on landfill passive gas vent emissions and the solar flare. The solar flare has been in operation for approximately three months and has reduced 29% of emissions in August 2023, mitigating 34.6 MT CO₂e. The commission also discussed the frequency of landfill emissions updates, given the change in commission staffing. The commission decided quarterly updates shared via email are sufficient.

Staff also provided an update on the residential food scrap drop off. The food scraps collected in 2023 have totaled to 10.65 tons, averaging 609 lbs per week. Since April of 2019, the program has diverted 83.47 tons from our landfills, averaging 726 lbs per week.

2. Agenda Items for October 4th, 2023 Meeting

New Business

1. Next Steps: Commercial Household Recycling Access

The commissioners discussed the next steps for expanding commercial household recycling access. The commissioners discussed an educational pilot program with a complex that already has recycling. A pilot program would include explicitly designating a staff member at the complex to be the “recycling champion”, responsible for helping distribute educational materials, monitor contamination, and posting consistent signage. Long term, the commissioners expressed interest in a mandate from Austin, TX , which requires recycling at the largest apartment complexes, then incrementally expands to smaller complexes.

2. Next Steps: Curbside Food Scrap Collection, Survey and RFP

The commissioners briefly discussed the intermediate results of the curbside food scrap collection public engagement survey. Roughly 55% of respondents (as of Sept. 6th) were interested in curbside collection, but there were not enough respondents able and willing to pay \$25/mo to make curbside collection viable at this time. Once the survey closes on September 10th, the commission will discuss other ways to increase the use of the food scrap drop-off, informed by the survey responses and feedback.

3. Pollinator Garden Updates

Ms. Brandstrator shared updates on the pollinator garden, stating the city is ordering a few replacement plants and that there have been consistent volunteers for weeding the garden. She also noted that there have been some deaths among the butterfly bush plants, but all other species are doing well. The commission discussed the possibility of putting signage at the garden, which would link to a plant identification page on the city website.

4. Citizens Climate Pledge

Ms. Branstrator also shared her work on the Citizens Climate Pledge. The commission discussed how to make the pledge have a broad appeal and engage every member of the community.

Currently, the main focuses of the pledge are decarbonization of energy, transportation, and lifestyle choices.

5. Member Updates

Ms. Branstrator expressed concern about stormwater management, given flooding in her neighborhood. Mr. Bracken invited Ms. Bramstator to a planning commission meeting to discuss the importance of stormwater management.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioners adjourned at 7:53pm. The next Environmental Commission meeting will be October 4th, 2023 at 7pm in the Municipal Building's first floor conference room.