



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
OXFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 S. COLLEGE AVE
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

The Environmental Commission members attending the Wednesday, October 4th, 2023 meeting were Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice Chair and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; and Heather Barrett. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda
Motion: Ms. Barrett
2nd: Ms. Raghu
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the September 6th, 2023 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Motion: Ms. Barrett
2nd: Ms. Branstrator
Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

New Business

1. Commerical Household Recycling Access

The commissioners discussed the next steps for expanding commercial household recycling access. The commissioners discussed a year-long education campaign before implementing a “champion” pilot program. Staff shared that there is a grant opportunity that, if awarded, would

fund a community-wide education campaign, which would include materials specific to commercial housing.

2. Curbside Food Scrap Collection Results

The commissioners briefly discussed the curbside collection of food scraps and the decision not to move forward with the RFP due to low interest at the quoted price. However, the commission discussed providing in-home containers for food scrap collection in conjunction with the educational campaign to increase participation in the drop-off program. Some concerns about providing containers are ensuring recipients use them and that the program would not generate more plastic waste to reduce food waste. The commission also inquired about the ability to collect food scraps and yard waste and place them in GoZero bins.

3. Citizens Climate Pledge

Ms. Branstrator shared the updated Citizen's Climate Pledge, the yard sign, and the certificate. The commission discussed preliminary feedback from co-workers and the ability to make the pledge have a wider reach. Ms. Raghu asked if a children's version could be made to engage and educate through the schools. The commission discussed the role of city staff vs the Environmental Commission in managing and distributing the Citizen's Pledge. Ms. Branstrator emphasized that the initiative would remain citizen-led but asked for a webpage on the city site for the pledge.

4. Member Updates:

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board
- Climate Action Steering Committee

Ms. Branstrator shared that the Climate Action Steering Committee and League of Women Voters will host an Electrification Fair on November 15th. The fair will focus on climatefriendly tax incentives for home upgrades and connect community members to local contractors.

5. Staff Updates

Staff provided opportunities for recycling and composting at uptown events for the rest of 2024. Staff also shared that a waste audit will occur at OXtoberfest to better understand what type of waste is being produced.

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Barrett

2nd: Ms. Raghu

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioners adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next Environmental Commission meeting will be November 1st, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building's first-floor conference room.

