



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Environmental Commission members present were Jon Ralinovsky, Peggy Branstrator, Anna Abey, and Jim Vinch. A quorum was present. The staff liaison was Reena Murphy.

Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Ms. Abey

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes from August 7th, 2024

Motion: Mr. Ralinovsky

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Rumpke and Go Zero Tour Recaps

Mr. Ralinovsky shared about the Rumpke and Go Zero tour experiences. Ms. Branstrator expressed skepticism of the Hefty ReNew program and Mr. Ralinovsky shared how the bags are separated from the curbside recyclable materials at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Mr. Ralinovsky also shared that Rumpke is exploring food scrap collection services.

Ms. Raghu organized the Rumpke tour and Mr. Ralinovsky, Ms. Murphy, and other community members attended.

The Go Zero tour showed the Zanesfield and Wauseon locations. The Zanesfield location is not currently operational. The Wauseon facility is located on the Andre Family Farms and utilizes wind rows to compost. The facility accepts food scraps, agricultural waste, and food from suppliers that are unfit for human consumption (i.e. damaged cans, spoiled food, etc.). Mr. Ralinovsky, Ms. Abey, and Ms. Murphy all attended the Go Zero Tour.

2. Recycle Ohio Grant Implementation Update

Staff provided an update on the projects proposed through the Recycle Ohio Grant. The grant has two subcategories: special venue recycling and education and outreach. Special venue funding was used to contract with Zero Waste Event Productions LLC for the Eclipse Festival and purchase the new waste stations, tents, and flags. The education and outreach funding has been used to create and boost social media graphics and will be used for direct mailers, bin distribution, and educational videos in the future.

During our discussion of recycling, Mr. Vinch asked about multi-family housing and a potential requirement for recycling. Ms. Abey provided a summary of the Professional Service Project through the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, as she was on the project team. She shared that multi-family requirements are difficult to implement legally and that many apartment complexes have tried to offer recycling, but the contamination rate was too high to continue it. Ms. Abey noted that an education campaign was the #1 recommendation from the project team, to address contamination issues before exploring requirements. Staff shared that the PSP report was utilized as the basis for the education campaign being funded through the Recycle Ohio Grant.

3. Staff Updates:

- Deer Management Program
- Campus Climate Action Corp

Staff shared that staff and Council are exploring new approaches to the Deer Management Program. Example approaches include:

- Dividing each hunting location in Oxford into separate hunting periods
- Having multiple shorter hunting periods
- Prioritizing hunters who have harvested a deer for permitting in following years

Staff also shared that Miami University's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and the City of Oxford will be supporting a Campus Climate Action Corp (CCAC) program through Campus Compact and Americorp. The goal is to hire two part time CCAC members who will focus on ecological services, residential energy audits, and residential energy education.

4. Member Updates:

- City Council
- Planning Commission

- OPTAB
- OCASC

No updates from Council or Planning Commission. OPTAB, has two upcoming public events: Community Bike Ride with Tri-State Trails: Sept. 19th, 3:30pm, starting at Talawanda High School.

Planning Meeting for the NW Arc of the Trails: October 10th, 6pm, Talawanda Middle School. OCASC will have another Energy Efficiency Fair on October 23rd, location TBD.

Ms. Branstrator also shared that she will be doing solar tours during the first weekend in October with the American Solar Society.

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Branstator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

The committee adjourned at 7:51pm.