



24.12.04 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:

December 4, 2024

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

7:00 PM

Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Anna Abey; Jim Vinch

Reena Murphy

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the October 2nd 2024 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

New Business

1. Energy Improvement Matters (Bruce Everly + Anna Abey)
2. Next Steps: Closed Landfill
3. Potential for Hazardous Waste Drop Off
4. Member Updates:
 - City Council
 - Planning Commission
 - OPTAB
 - OCASC
5. Staff Updates
 - Quarterly Update from the Environmental Division

Adjournment



MINUTES

OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members of the Environmental Commission present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Peggy Branstrator; Anna Abey; Jim Vinch. A quorum was present.

The staff liaison present was Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Abey

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the minutes from September 4th, 2024

Motion: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Ms. Abey

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Building Facade & Sustainability Grants

Staff shared a summary of the 2024 Building Facade & Sustainability Grant awards, administered through Economic Development. Six projects were approved for funding, totaling \$9,458.78 to local businesses to support sustainability upgrades and facade improvements.

Seth Cropaenbaker, Economic Development Specialist, requested ideas from the Environmental Commission regarding targeted actions for sustainability in future grant cycles. Seth proposed

ways to eliminate single-use plastics in restaurants, i.e. purchasing commercial dishwashers, reusable tableware, etc. The commission liked Seth's idea and contributed:

- containers for back-of-house recycling and composting
- bikes for food delivery services

2. 2024 Sustainability Goals YTD Update

Staff provided an update on the progress towards the 2024 Council Goals related to Sustainability. The attached PowerPoint provides more detailed updates.

The commission recommended adding Sharefest as a link on the Waste Free website updates. The commission also expressed interest in hosting a hazardous waste drop-off day in Oxford with Butler County.

3. Waste Station Events

- Farm and Flea, November 23rd, 9am-2pm
- Holiday Fest, December 7th, 4:30-8:30pm

Staff shared the attempts and challenges of recruiting volunteers to manage the waste stations at community events. The Environmental Commission members then discussed availability for Farm and Flea and Holiday Fest to manage the waste station.

4. Member Updates:

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- OPTAB
- OCASC

Ms. Raghu shared that City Council denied Clean Capitol's extension request for the option to lease the closed landfill.

Mr. Ralinovsky shared that OPTAB is hosting a public meeting on October 10th at 6pm at the Middle School to evaluate routes for the Northern Arc of the OATs.

Ms. Branstrator shared that OCASC is hosting an Electrification Fair on October 23rd at Kramer Elementary. Other activities include a Solar Open House on October 6th and hosting an EV Car Show at Hike-A-Thon.

There was no update for the Planning Commission.

5. Staff Updates

Staff shared that they are unavailable for the regular November meeting and recommended canceling.

Mr. Ralinovsky motioned to cancel the November meeting, and Ms. Raghu seconded. The vote was unanimous approval.

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Branstator

2nd: Ms. Raghu

Vote: Unanimous approval.

The Environmental Commission adjourned at 8:10pm.



Memo

Service Department Environmental Affairs

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist

RE: Fourth Quarter 2024 Environmental Affairs Summary:
Landfill Emissions, Food Scraps, and Urban Forestry

DATE: November 21, 2024

Closed Landfill Passive Gas Vent Emissions

For the previous three months, the total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) of the closed landfill's emissions ranged from 85.7 metric tons (MT) to 103.8 MT. Without the operating flare at gas vent GV-23, the total CO₂e values for the landfill would have ranged between 114.8 MT to 138.7 MT. Flaring the emissions from GV-23 has been reducing the closed landfill's total emissions CO₂e value by 25% - 30% since flaring was started in the end of May 2023 (25.3% for the last three month time period). The average monthly emissions CO₂e value over 47 months is 122.3 MT, with the total CO₂e value for 2024 estimated to be 1,077.9 MT. The annual emissions CO₂e value for 2023 was 898.4 MT, for 2022, it was 1,803.74 MT, and for 2021, it was 1,886.94 MT.

Residential Food Scraps Drop-Off Program

Through the Thursday, November 14, 2024 weekly collection of the food scrap totes (week 293 since the start of the program in April 2019), a total of 211,951 pounds (approximately 105.98 tons) of food scraps have been collected by GoZERO and transported for composting. This averages to 726 pounds per week. During 2024 (46 weekly collections), the total weight of food scraps was 30,876 pounds (approximately 15.4 tons), averaging 686 pounds per week. In the past six weeks to two months, Staff has been regularly encountering (and removing) non-compostable materials (predominately plastic grocery bags, zip-lock style bags, and food still in manufacturing packaging) in the drop-off totes at least several times per week.

Urban Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA re-certification application will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry by its Friday, December 6, 2024 deadline. All four standards for Tree City USA consideration have been successfully completed. During 2024's reporting period (December 2023 – November, 2024), a total of 94 street, park,

and public trees have been planted (including 49 trees planted in public right-of-ways as part of the development of the Owl's Landing subdivision), with 13 trees maintenance pruned, and 38 trees removed. The planting to removal ratio was 2.5. Oxford's expense for trees during 2024 was approximately \$88,600, which is \$4.04 per capita (Tree City USA requires an expenditure of at least \$2 per capita). This will be Oxford's 29th consecutive year as a Tree City USA community.