



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Environmental Commission members present were Chantel Raghu, Jason Bracken, Peggy Branstrator, Anna Abey, Jim Vinch, and Michael Vanni. A quorum was present. Staff member liaison present was Reena Murphy. Members of the public present were Green Umbrella Fellows Kate Kozak and Oluwaseun Olubodun, and Kethan Babu with the Oxford Free Press.

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the May 7th Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

2. Approval of the May 13th Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Ms. Raghu

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. 2025 Goals YTD Update

Staff provided an update on the YTD progress on the 2025 goals. The powerpoint with detailed updates is attached. There was some discussion regarding requiring all events using city properties to be zero waste, just city lead events, or events that reach a certain threshold. There was not consensus among the commission regarding a zero waste requirement, however, the commission supports the city continuing to try to make their own events zero waste. The commission also supports the city continuing to work on the solarizing the closed landfill.

2. 2026 Areas to Research

Staff presented the research conducted on the 2026 Areas to Research, adopted by Council. The powerpoint with detailed research is attached. In December of 2024, during a joint session of EC and OCASC, the commissions voted on the following priorities for research:

1. Solarizing WTP and WWTP
2. Additional flare(s) at the closed landfill
3. Revising Parking Fee to support Alt. Transit

At the end of the presentation, staff requested the commission identify their top 2-3 projects for 2026 to recommend to City Council for implementation. Ultimately, the commission voted to recommend the 2026 priorities for implementation to be:

1. Solarizing our water and wastewater infrastructure. Specifically looking at the Seven Mile Well Field.
2. Adding an additional methane flare to the closed landfill
3. Implementing a hazardous waste drop day in Oxford.

Motion to recommend the above project priorities to council: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: 4-2

There was discussion among the commission if the third project should be a hazardous waste drop day or a grant to incentivize furnished apartments. Specifically, there was a discussion of furnishing mattresses, as they are difficult to divert from the landfill. Revising the parking fee is not recommended by staff at this time, as the parking garage will not be paid off until 2029.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning Commission
- OCASC

Ms. Raghu shared that City Council has approved funding for the next segment of the OATS trail. Mr. Bracken shared that Planning Commission had a work session regarding the code rewrite. Ms. Branstrator shared that OCASC had a work session regarding Oxford's updated GHG Inventory.

Mr. Vinch shared a complaint he received from a community member regarding litter at fast food establishments in Oxford.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:30pm.