



MINUTES: Environmental Commission

Date: July 6, 2022

Location: Municipal Building, 15 South College Avenue, first floor conference room

Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Chair, Mr. Jon Ralinovsky; Vice-Chair and City Council Representative, Ms. Chantel Raghu; Mr. Justin Fain, and Ms. Heather Barrett

Staff present: David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist, Staff Liaison

Public present: City of Oxford (Oxford) residents Ms. Peggy Branstrator, Ms. Suzanne Zazycki, Oxford Climate and Sustainability Intern, Ms. Reena Murphy, and Ohio Department of Natural Resource (ODNR) Regional Urban Forester, Ms. Wendi Van Buren

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Ms. Raghu
2nd: Mr. Fain
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ms. Raghu
2nd: Ms. Barrett
Vote: Unanimous

Old Business: None

New Business:

A) Potential Revision of Urban Forestry Ordinance

Ms. Van Buren was in attendance to assist and offer guidance to the Commission as it considers revisions to Oxford's ordinance concerning its urban forest (Codified Ordinance Chapter 935 entitled: "Trees, Shrubs and Other Plants"). The potential ordinance revision is due to an audit of the ordinance by the Arbor Foundation (Foundation) to ensure Tree City USA communities meet the Foundation's current standard for a public tree care ordinance. Ms. Van Buren informed the Commission that while the results of the Foundation's audit has not been officially released, Oxford's existing ordinance Chapter 935 is in compliance with the Foundation's standards. That stated, Ms. Van Buren did note that the majority of Chapter 935 was approved by City Council



over 25 years ago (in 1995), and review and potential revision(s) to the ordinance could be appropriate. One of Ms. Van Buren's concerns was to ensure Oxford's ordinance was in compliance with the US Forestry Service's requirements to qualify for federal grant funding. Ms. Van Buren indicated that ODNR anticipates the potential for up to 10 years of federal funding of grants to encourage tree plantings in communities. Subsequent discussions indicated that Oxford's estimated canopy coverage (28%) is about average for college-related communities with off-campus housing, but below the ODNR's goal of 50%. Ms. Murphy indicated that the 28% value was an educated estimate by Oxford's Climate Action Steering Committee, and she was working to refine that value utilizing a software program with better resolution.

B) IES Professional Service Project: Apartment Complex Recycling

Ms. Zazycki, Associate Director of Miami University's (MU's) Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (IES), was in attendance to discuss the potential of a professional service project (PSP) during the upcoming academic year by IES students to investigate increasing recycling volume and/or establishing recycling programs for local apartment complexes. Ms. Zazycki indicated she thought that this would be a good project, potentially benefitting both the students and the community, but that a specific goal and actual end product(s) needed to be better defined. Several different approaches and ensuring goals were discussed. Tentatively, it was concluded that researching existing/past efforts for multi-family unit recycling across the nation to try and determine what did or did not work, what is needed to have the recycling program succeed, and finding a successful program in a community similar to Oxford was a feasible PSP. Concurrent with the IES PSP, Ms. Murphy would also be reviewing Oxford's invoices from Rumpke to determine the current situation for apartment complex recycling in Oxford. A final decision will need to be determined at the August 3, 2022 Commission meeting to allow Ms. Zazycki time to set up the PSP for the incoming IES students first semester.

Discussion of the pending action regarding the Managed Natural Lawn Area ordinance or resolution concluded that Mr. Ralinovsky would contact Mr. Steve Sullivan and Mr. AJ Alejandro to confirm that either/both could be available to make a presentation to City Council. Mr. Ralinovsky is to inform Ms. Raghu of Mr. Sullivan and/or Alejandro's interest and/or availability.

Ms. Murphy informed the Commission that the pilot project establishing up to three pollinator gardens at the Oxford Community Park was approved. Based upon past experiences, Ms. Branstrator recommended that the gardens be created/installed one at a time, allowing one to be established and thriving prior to starting the next one.

Staff updated the Commission on the monthly emission monitoring event of the landfill's 23 passive gas vents for May. The total estimated carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for the entire landfill during the month of June was estimated to be 197 metric tons (MT). This was above the 21-month average monthly estimate of 150 MT CO₂e per month. This value is still some 60%



lower than the USEPA's model estimate for the closed landfill emissions (392 MT) that was used in previous calculations of the inventory of Oxford's greenhouse gas emissions.

Staff provided a summary of the on-going residential food scraps drop-off program. Through the end of June (169 weeks since April 2019), the total weight of collected food scraps was approximately 125,250 pounds (62.6 tons), averaging 740 pounds per week. For the year 2022, a total of approximately 19,750 pounds (9.87 tons) had been collected in 26 weeks, averaging 760 pounds per week.

Approval of Adjournment:

Motion:	Ms. Raghu
2 nd :	Mr. Fain
Vote:	Unanimous

Commissioners concluded discussions at 8:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on August 3, 2022, in the Municipal Building's first floor conference room.



AGENDA: Environmental Commission

Wednesday, July 6, 2022
Municipal Building, 15 South College Avenue, first floor conference room
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS

Jon Ralinovsky, Chair
Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative

Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative
Justin Fain

Steven Elliott
Heather Barrett

Staff Liaison

David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the June 1, 2022 meeting

New Business

- A) Potential Revision of Urban Forestry Ordinance
- B) IES Professional Service Project: Apartment Complex Recycling
- C) City Council, Planning Commission, Oxford Parking and Transportation
Advisory Board, and Climate Action Steering Committee Activities

Other Business

Status for the Managed Natural Lawn Area Legislation
Status of Pilot Pollinator Gardens/Naturalized Areas at Oxford
Community Park
Monthly Monitoring of Landfill Passive Gas Vent Emissions
Residential Food Scrap Drop-Off Program Summaries
Agenda Items for August 3, 2022 meeting

Adjournment