



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
COLLEGE @ ELM BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission and City Council Representative; Jim Vinch, City Council Representative; Michael Vanni; Peggy Branstrator; Becky Mathers. A quorum was present.

Staff present was Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Members of the public present were: Barbra Smyth; Sandi Hoy Hazelton; David Gorchov; Wendi VanBuren, ODNR Urban Forester; J.D. Wulforst, Director of Institute for the Environment and Sustainability

Student project team members present were: Olive Abram, August Daugherty, Devante Harris, Kimmy Kasarcik, Jules Swope, and Sarah Dumyahn, Professor.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Approval of the agenda: Mr. Backen

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the November 5th 2026 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Vanni

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Student Presentation: Recommended Changes to Oxford's Street Tree List

The student group shared their research and recommendations for changes to Oxford's Street Tree List. Following the presentation, key questions and discussion points included:

- Selecting a variety of trees with differing blooming windows for aesthetic purposes.
- Elm varieties, such as Pioneer Elm, are resistant but not immune to Dutch Elm Disease. It is still wise to follow the 10/20/30 rule and not plant Elms in clusters to prevent future issues.
- Climate projections included 40 and 80 years in the future.
- Utilizing the newly approved list as an opportunity for community education.
- Not every tree on the recommended list is Native to North America because many native trees are not projected to do well in future climate and urban environments.
- Pollination methods of the trees and if the City should be concerned about the pollination of fruit bearing trees.
- Deer resistance: if the recommended species grew quickly and were resistant to deer rubbing.

2. Appointment of Environmental Commission Chair and Vice Chair

The commission unanimously appointed Mr. Bracken as Chair and Mr. Vinch as Vice-Chair. Both Mr. Bracken and Mr. Vinch accepted the nominations.

Nomination of Mr. Bracken as Chair: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Mr. Bracken accepted the nomination.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Nomination of Mr. Vinch as Vice-Chair: Mr. Vanni

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Mr. Vinch accepted the nomination.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning Commission
- OCASC

City Council shared updates regarding the solar array at the WWTP and the electric aggregation program. OPTAB shared they are anticipating a recommendation to City Council regarding bike and pedestrian safety plan in 2026. No updates from Planning Commission. OCASC received an update of 2025 Council Goals.

4. Staff Updates

Staff shared the final presentation times for another student presentation for access to public green spaces.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:14pm.