



MINUTES

OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present include: Jim Vinch, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative, Peggy Branstrator, Michael Vanni, Ken Vincent, Becky Mathers, and Barbara Smyth.
Staff present include: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Mr. Vinch called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Mrs. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the February 4th 2026 Minutes

Motion: Mrs. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Earth Day Proclamation

Motion to recommend to Council: Mr. Vincent
2nd: Mr. Vanni
Vote: Unanimous approval

2. Arbor Day Proclamation

Motion to recommend to Council: Mr. Vanni
2nd: Mrs. Branstrator
Vote: Unanimous approval

3. Changes to the Approved Street Tree List

The commission reviewed the proposed changes to Oxford's Tree List, which was evaluated as a capstone project by students and evaluated by staff. Discussions included adding Eastern Redbud as an approved tree, keeping the Allegheny Serviceberry, and removing Osage Orange from the list.

The commission asked whether staff have the flexibility to plant species outside the approved list. Staff shared that the City can plant species outside of this list with approval of the Service Director. Situations where the City may deviate from this list include when there are challenges with nursery stock and when grant funding requires diversity proportions.

Motion to add the Eastern Redbud, maintaining Allegheny Serviceberry, and removing Osage Orange: Mr. Vincent
2nd: Mrs. Branstrator
Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to approve the amended list to Council, encouraging staff to plant native species where possible: Mrs. Branstrator
2nd: Ms. Smyth
Vote: Unanimous Approval

4. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning Commission
- OCASC

Mr. Vinch shared that Council has approved a Sustainability budget for 2026, which includes battery recycling. Mr. Vinch also shared that OPTAB has contracted a study for sidewalk connections to OATS. No updates from Planning Commission and OCASC.

5. Staff Updates

- No meeting April 1st

- Upcoming events:
 - OCAC Art Opening March 13th 6-9pm
 - Bee Fest April 18th 1-8pm
 - WWTP Ground Breaking April 22 (Earth Day)
 - Earthfest April 25th 11am-2pm

Staff had no additional updates to share.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Smyth

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.