

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF OXFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 3, 2021
7:00 p.m.

**This meeting was conducted in accordance with Sub. H.B. 197 and the guidelines set forth
by the Ohio Department of Health**

Call to Order

Environmental Commission members in attendance for the Wednesday, March 3, 2021 virtual meeting were: Chair, Mr. Jon Ralinovsky; Vice-Chair and City Council Representative, Ms. Chantel Raghu; Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Jason Bracken, Mr. Andor Kiss, Mr. Steven Elliott, and Mr. Justin Fain. A quorum was present.

Mr. Fain moved for approval of the minutes from the February 3, 2021 Commission meeting; Mr. Kiss seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Discussion

A) Alternative Stormwater BMPs for Pending Development(s)

Mr. Bracken stated that with the two proposed residential developments along Lake Forest Drive, the submitted plans reportedly indicate that there is to be removal of forested areas. The trees are being removed partially to make room for retention basins for storm water management. Mr. Bracken expressed his concerns and inquired if there was a mechanism to encourage developers to use other best management practice (BMP) structures and features for storm water control other than retention or detention basins. Staff informed the Commissioners that the Environmental Commission had previously prepared a document describing structural and non-structural BMPs. The prepared document presented information contained in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources “Rainwater and Land Development: Ohio’s Standards for Stormwater Management, Land Development and Urban Stream Protection.” In 2017, the Commission had completed their document and it was subsequently included as Chapter 4 in Oxford’s Stormwater Management Design Manual. Staff was requested to provide a copy of the BMP document to the Commissioners for their review and future discussion on potential methods to encourage other storm water BMPs rather than solely detention/retention basins.

B) “Solarized Oxford” Update

Ms. Raghu informed the Commission that 22 homes and business in Oxford had contacted PRO Lighting and Solar LLC (PRO Lighting) for a cost estimate to install roof-mounted solar panels. Ms. Raghu stated that six properties had signed contracts for the work to be done.

Other Business

Staff updated Commissioners on developments with the Miami University Institute for the Environment and Sustainability graduate student team undertaking a Professional Service Project (PSP) regarding Oxford’s greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, using 2019 as a base year. There had been a meeting on February 23rd to resolve several conflicting pieces of information with Oxford’s local government operations (LGO). Oxford was requested to re-calculate the solid waste GHG numbers for 2018 to solely reflect the LGO’s contribution (the previous LGO GHG inventory done with 2018’s values had the entire community’s solid waste GHG numbers included). For the community-scale GHG inventory, it was concluded to utilize available information based upon the 45056 zip code whenever possible. The next GHG inventory PSP status meeting is scheduled for the morning of March 10, 2021.

Staff updated the Commission on the monthly emission monitoring event for February of the landfill’s 23 passive gas vents. The monitoring event for February yielded the lowest estimated carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) monthly value to date for the entire landfill at approximately 92 metric tonnes (MT). January’s monitoring values were the highest observed to date at approximately 292 MT. These fluctuations in the CO₂e values suggest that the landfill emissions are not particularly steady over time, and that continued monitoring will likely be necessary to determine an accurate estimate of the landfill’s CO₂e per month. With the current data, the annual CO₂e emissions are estimated to be 2,077 MT CO₂e. This estimated annual emission volume is less than the USEPA’s model estimate of approximately 4,700 MT CO₂e.

Mr. Bracken stated that he had received a response from the USEPA regarding combustion products that would be expected from flaring landfill emissions. The USEPA indicated that they were willing to assist Mr. Bracken in examination of potential flaring at the landfill, assuming the methane concentration from vents is sufficient to maintain combustion.

Staff provided a summary of the on-going residential food scraps drop-off program. Since the program started in April 2019 and through the end of February 22nd (99 weeks), approximately 69,450 pounds (34.7 tons) of food scraps have been collected for composting. This is approximately 700 pounds per week on average, with the program’s expense coming to \$0.32 per pound. For 2021, a total of just under 5,800 pounds has been collected, with a weekly average of approximately 825 pounds, and a program’s expense of \$0.28 per pound.

Ms. Raghu informed the Commission that she had spoken with GoZERO (the company collecting and transporting the food scraps to the compost facility) about curbside collections

throughout the community. GoZERO stated there would need to be at least 100 households participating, and the expense would be \$25 per month per household. Ms. Raghu indicated that she has found someone local who would be interested in performing the curbside food scrap collections for a subscription fee of under \$10 per month per household, using GoZERO's containers and having GoZERO transport the food scraps along with Oxford's drop-off volumes. GoZERO reportedly is alright with this set-up and has offered to assist the individual as best they can. There would be additional expenses from GoZERO, as there would be additional food scrap containers. The current fee Oxford is paying for the containers' collection and servicing is \$38 per container per week. It was suggested that the additional expenses from GoZERO would need to be worked into the monthly subscription fee, with the local individual providing Oxford with the monies to cover the increase in GoZERO's monthly invoice to Oxford. The Commissioners voiced their support of the idea in general. Ms. Raghu was asked to continue her investigation into the potential expansion of the food scraps to compost program. An estimate on the increase in the volume of weekly food scraps will need to be determined.

Staff updated the Commission on Oxford's efforts for a part-time Climate Sustainability Coordinator. On February 16th, three candidates were interviewed by Ms. Jessica Greene, Mr. Jon Ralinovsky, Ms. Suzanne Zazycki, and Staff. One candidate stood out, with experience is preparing GHG inventories for the City of Dayton and solar panel array projects on undeveloped, city-owned lands in Dayton. However, the candidate had subsequently accepted a position elsewhere, and was no longer available for Oxford's position.

Staff was requested to investigate how this year's Earth Day observance ("EarthFest") is going to be conducted virtually, as restriction associated with COVID-19 are likely to still be in effect on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

Adjournment

Commissioners concluded discussions at 7:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly Commission meeting is to be a virtual meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. on April 7, 2021.