

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, **October 9, 2025 @7pm** in Borough Hall

Call Meeting to Order

Chairperson Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm in Borough Hall.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

“Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with as notice was published in the Tuckerton Beacon and the Asbury Park Press stating the time, date and place of this meeting.”

Flag Salute

Chairperson Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin led the salute of the flag.

Roll Call

Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin	P	Cynthia Coritz	P
Anthony Scaglione	Abs	John B. McCormack	P
Paul Solimani	P	Vincent Lauricella	P
Debra McMunn	P	Carolyn Keen	Abs

Also, In Attendance:

	Mayor Susan Marshall	Mike Dupuis, Sr.
Present	X	X
Absent		

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the September 2025 meeting were circulated, Mr. Solimani motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. McMunn it was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission

Recording of Hours

The Tuckerton Environmental Commission recognizes their member's donation of time and knowledge for studies and research along with attendance of the monthly meetings and available workshops / seminars for the months of September 2025

Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin	17.5	Cynthia Coritz	3
Anthony Scaglione	-----	John B. McCormack	3
Paul Solimani	3	Vincent Lauricella	5

Debra McMunn	27	Carolyn Keen	-----
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Old Business

Adopt-A-Highway: Ms. Obiedzinski-Garvin reported that Ms. Keen will be forwarding photographs of all collected materials to Ms. Coritz for submission to the State. During the September 20, 2025 Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, volunteers collected eleven bags of trash. It was suggested that a Nixle Alert be distributed prior to future cleanup events to encourage greater community participation. A proposal was also made to host a cookout with Council members following a cleanup as both a fundraiser and an opportunity for residents to engage with the governing body in an informal setting.

The Committee discussed scheduling new cleanup dates and reviewed the program requirements established by the New Jersey Adopt-A-Highway Program, which stipulate six cleanups over a two-year period, or three per year. Ms. Coritz will confirm the start date of the current two-year commitment and provide clarification regarding program guidelines. Cleanup reports are submitted online, ideally two weeks in advance. Supplies, including trash bags, grabbers, and safety vests, may be ordered through the Department of Transportation. It was noted that the bags used during the most recent cleanup were of poor quality, likely supplied by Public Works rather than the DOT, and that additional grabbers and vests are needed due to increased volunteer participation.

For recruitment and outreach it was suggested contacting local Scouts and high school students, particularly members of the National Honor Society, as they may be interested in earning community service hours or fulfilling scholarship requirements. Promoting the cleanups through Pinelands Regional High School and Scout groups was recommended to increase volunteer engagement. Kaylin Ullman also offered to update and maintain the group's Facebook page to improve communication and visibility.

Proposed cleanup dates for 2026 are Saturday, April 11; Saturday, July 11; and Saturday, September 19. Committee members were asked to review their schedules for potential conflicts and provide feedback at the next meeting. The September cleanup is scheduled for the week prior to the Decoy Show, and the number of cleanups per year may be adjusted as needed to ensure compliance with program requirements.

Sustainable Jersey: No updates.

Grants: Ms. Obiedzinski-Garvin explains that Borough Clerk Jenny Gleghorn is currently researching grant opportunities related to updating the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The existing NRI was completed in 2007 or 2008, prior to Superstorm Sandy. Updating the inventory aligns with the Borough's Master Plan, which last underwent review in 2017–2018 and is scheduled for its next update in 2027. The original NRI update previously cost approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Ms. Coritz will contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in Trenton regarding the 2026 tree grant opportunities and will continue pursuing additional grant options, as well as opportunities to obtain free trees for upcoming projects.

Water ways: No updates.

Tree Replacement: Mr. Lauricell reported that he and Roger Hoffman walked Main Street to assess the trees and logistics. The south side, near the old town hall and bank, has smaller trees with no wire issues, making removal easier, while the north side, near the post office, has larger trees entangled in wires that will require professional removal. He noted that he contacted Atlantic City Electric's tree department but has not received a response. There are 11 trees from Main Street to Marine Street that could be replaced, with an estimated cost of \$2,500 for the trees, stakes, and watering bags. The removal of existing trees and stumps will be challenging.

The committee discussed whether the Environmental Commission could display company's logo on their website with the phrase "Proud supporter of the Tuckerton Environmental Commission." It was noted that approval from Ms. Gleghorn administrator is needed since, as a borough entity, they cannot officially promote businesses. On the Facebook page, they could dedicate posts to sponsors and donors. Regarding tree plaques, some trees on the south side have plaques indicating who planted them, though one dedicated by the Arbor Day Committee disappeared.

Ms. Cortiz shared two ideas for funding the tree project. First, Help Seat, an organization that diverts textiles from landfills, could host a textile drive using the logo Jenny provided, with proceeds going toward the project. Second, a screening of the "12 Invasive Species" film from Galloway Township could charge a small fee per person, with funds also supporting the tree project. The commission discussed timing for tree removal and planting, suggesting early November before the holiday season as a possible start. They noted 11 trees from Main Street to Marine Street, recommending a phased approach: remove trees first, then stumps and roots with a small tracked excavator. Formal commission and town approval would be needed before beginning.

New Business

Committee Reports: The committee discussed returning the rain barrel currently at Old Borough Hall/Pine Shore Art Association and considered partnering with Tuckerton Elementary School for their 100-year anniversary. Upcoming events include the Tuckerton Library luncheon with guest speakers on November 15, 2025, and November's NJ Clean Month initiatives, including the "Skip the Straw" campaign.

Members Forum: None at this time.

Approval of Secretary Services

Mr. Solimani motioned, seconded by Ms. McMunn to approve the secretary's services for the month of July. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

Public Forum

Ms. Obiedzinski-Garvin motioned, seconded by Mr. Solimani to open public forum.

Seeing no public comment. Mrs. Obiedzinski-Garvin motioned, seconded by Mr. Solimani to close public forum

Adjournment

Seeing there were no more comments from the Commission, Mr. Solimani motioned, seconded by Ms. Coritz to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission. The Environmental Commission meeting ended at 8:12pm.

Sincerely,
Savannah Beaulieu
Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary