

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, **December 11, 2025** @7pm in Borough Hall

Call Meeting to Order

Chairperson Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, December 11, 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	Abs
Anthony Scaglione	Abs	John B. McCormack	P
Paul Solimani	P	Vincent Lauricella	Abs
Debra McMunn	P	Carolyn Keen	P

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the October 2025 and November 2025 meeting were unable to be approved for at this meeting due to the lack of quorum of members that attended the October and November meeting. It was determined to table it until the January 2026 meeting.

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 November 2025

Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin	11	Cynthia Coritz	3
Anthony Scaglione	3	John B. McCormack	Abs
Paul Solimani	Abs	Vincent Lauricella	5
Debra McMunn	15	Carolyn Keen	Abs

Old Business

Adopt-A-Highway: The commission reviewed scheduling for their Adopt-a-Highway program. Ms. Keen questioned whether the Tuckerton Beach Association beach cleanup

should occur on the same date in April. Members discussed holding the beach cleanup on April 18th or 19th—the weekend preceding Earth Day, which falls on Wednesday, April 22nd. After verifying there would be no conflict with Easter, they agreed to recommend these dates to the TBA. The Adopt-a-Highway event usually runs between one and one-and-a-half hours.

Sustainable Jersey: None at this time.

Grants: None at this time.

Water ways: The commission received updates on local waterway conditions. Discussion focused on ongoing work at Spittle Land, where soundings were conducted for a living shoreline design project that must be completed by 2027. Concerning Tuckerton Creek, the DEP and Army Corps had scheduled work around the COVID period, but no work was performed. The state proceeded with post-COVID projects instead of addressing the backlog, making it challenging for residents to obtain updates from the DEP.

The commission acknowledged that while check valves have been installed and function properly, they cannot prevent water that overtops bulkheads.

The group addressed infrastructure challenges, including drainage problems where tidal cycles cause catch basins and streets to flood. They noted that Little Egg Harbor Boulevard remains nearly constantly submerged, with the marsh area and private property creating further complications.

Tree Replacement: The commission learned that Tuckerton received \$280,000 for infrastructure projects. They discussed requesting that a portion of these funds be directed to the environmental commission's budget, particularly for stormwater management initiatives, which they argued represent critical infrastructure.

The committee reported that the November tree removal project was completed efficiently in about five hours. One stump still requires professional removal through a work order from the Borough Administrator to the Public Works Superintendent. When a member suggested planting shrubs rather than trees, Mr. Hoffman explained that taller foliage provides superior shade and reduces heat absorption in concrete areas during summer, while also noting safety concerns for low-clearance vehicles.

The committee identified 19 locations requiring tree replacement at an estimated \$335 per tree, totaling approximately \$6,365. They explored multiple funding options, including private donations (three trees already committed by individuals and a homeowners association), possible allocations from the infrastructure funds, and the Tree City USA program through the Arbor Day Foundation. Members agreed to contact another Tuckerton nursery for competitive pricing and investigate the Pinelands free tree program.

Committee Reports: Ms. Obiedzinski-Garvin proposed organizing a textile recycling day, pointing out that textile recycling bins are already available at the West Tuckerton Fire House and American Legion. The group noted that showing the "Twelve Tenacious Invasive" film from Galloway Township could include a nominal per-person admission fee. An invasive species presentation film is planned for March.

Members Forum: None at this time.

Approval of Secretary Services: Mr. McCormack motioned, seconded by Ms. McMunn to approve the secretary's services for the month of December. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

Public Forum- No Public Form.

Adjournment- Seeing there were no more comments from the Commission, Mr. McCormack motioned, seconded by Ms. McMunn to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

The Environmental Commission meeting ended at 7:50pm.

Sincerely,
Savannah Beaulieu
Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary