

## **The Boonsboro Environmental Commission (BEC)**

### **Eighth Annual Report January 2020 – December 2020**

#### **BEC BUSINESS:**

- January – Town Planner Ethan Strickler presented the Sustainable Communities Program as well as the Town’s Green Spaces plan/mapping. Member Alison Preston will be the BEC liaison to the SCP.
- January – Member Barbara Wetzel spoke with Facilities Manager at Shepherd University about their glass-crushing machine
- January – Member Laura Schnackenberg said a new children’s book is now at the WCFL: “Join the No-Plastic Challenge!” by Scot Ritchie
- February – 7th Annual Report (2019) presented and approved by BEC
- February – 2020 Grant Application Timeline presented to BEC
- February – Town Manager submitted a grant application to Potomac Edison for a town EV (electric vehicle) station
- March – Discussed and approved FY 2020 BEC Budget
- March – Drafted letter of support to the state delegates for the proposed electricity aggregation legislation (SB315 and HB561)
- March – Applied for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to analyze stormwater management in town
- March – Applied for a “Keep Maryland Beautiful” grant to improve landscape around Town Hall
- June – Chairperson Vesely attended several Sustainable Maryland Certified Friday afternoon ZOOM calls
- July – Member Preston attended the June Park Board meeting to discuss sharing costs and plans for beautifying the gazebo at the park
- August – Welcomed new BEC Member, Jenn Clements
- October – Became recertified with Sustainable Maryland Certified for the third time! This is a three-year certification
- October – Submitted a blurb in the Fall Town Newsletter requesting new members for the SMC Green Team
- October – A new compost bin order form was completed for the town website
- October – Participated with the town and Park Board at Bulk Trash Day, Shafer Park
- October – Boy Scout Troop 20 has volunteered to take over maintenance for the coming year of the Monarch Waystation in the park
- October – Approved updated Strategic Plan
- November – The EV station was installed and is up and running
- November – During Arbor Day celebration/Park Clean-Up (postponed from April), the Boy Scouts, BEC members and community members did a major planting at the Gazebo at Shafer Park
- November – Welcomed new BEC Members, Cassandra Ladino and Andy Watson
- November – Resolution 2012-03, establishing the Environmental Commission, was discussed for updating.
- November – Subcommittee members were approved for the coming year
- December – Promotion of EV station on Town website

#### **FARMER’S MARKET:**

- January – Bonnie Butter, a vendor, was approved as the new Farmer’s Market Manager for the coming year
- January – Chairperson Vesely handed out FM brochures at the Health & Wellness Expo at the Maryland Theater
- February - Vendor planning meeting for the 2020 season was held on February 27
- April – The Farmers Market was relocated to the parking lot near the Police Station on Potomac Street

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- Had up to 17 vendors on some weeks; average attendance was 200 patrons
- Held several special events this season: Buy Something, Get Something (July); Mini-Recycling Month (August); Milkweed Seed Giveaway (September); Bring Your Dog to the Market Day (September)
- July – A box of disposable face masks was provided by Terri Hollingshead for patrons, upon request. It is a state-mandated rule that everyone attending must wear a face covering
- October – Took a vendor survey at the end of the regular season to get feedback to improve the FM
- October – Lunch was provided to the Town Maintenance team for their help setting up banners/signs each week for the FM.
- October – December – The Market season was extended nine weeks until December 15, 2020
- November – Food pantry items were collected for two weeks for Micah's Backpack

#### ON THE HORIZON:

- Public Speakers: Due to COVID-19, no speakers scheduled this year. Next year, we will plan for the following:
  - Emily Dyson of Entsorga to speak on Recycling Waste not accepted by Apple Valley Waste
  - Marie Bikle, Master Gardener, sharing her knowledge
  - Jim King – Shepherd University Facilities Manager, to speak on the glass crusher
  - James Smyle from the Appalachian Trail Community Program to speak on promoting the AT
  - Lions Club requested the BEC as a speaker at one of its meetings once COVID is no longer an issue
- Apply for the Outreach and Restoration Grant in 2021 (funds clean water, improve habitat and community education: possibly work with Park Board toward stream filtration in the park)
- Apply for any grants that apply to town improvements
- The Community Green Spaces Subcommittee will meet in 2021 to survey the town's green spaces
- Continue to update the Strategic Plan and strive to reach goals
- The Community Garden project is always on our To Do list
- Continue the Farmers Market, possibly opening in April, ending in December
- Strive for successful Plastic Straw Challenge among town businesses
- Work towards increasing residential composting goals
- Continue support of Park Board/Tree Board Subcommittee with tree identification signage, purchase of new trees for park
- Work with the Public Safety Commission on making our crosswalks safer, making Boonsboro a Walkable Community
- Continue Public Education and Outreach to educate community about environmental issues