

Town of Boonsboro
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
Telephone: (301) 432-5141

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

PRESENT: *Commission Members:*, Chairperson Brigitte Schmidt, Vice-Chairperson Kathy Vesely, Secretary Amanda Whitmore, Rosemary James, Scott McIlwee, Laura Schnackenberg, Jessica Renner, and Mayor and Council Liaison Barbara Wetzel
Staff Member: Megan Clark, Town Planner
Absent: Todd Kennedy and Linda Moser

PRESIDING: Chairperson Brigitte Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Schmidt declared the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting approved as submitted.

GUESTS

Elmer Weibley, Manager of Washington County Soil Conservation District (WCSCD) & Dan Hockman, Conservation Planner, WCSCD

Mr. Elmer Weibley stated he and Mr. Dan Hockman had visited the Town Farm property and prepared a conservation plan for the farm, based upon the new nutrient regulations to be implemented by January 1, 2014. He stated while it is important to adopt best management practices, as the conservation plan proposes, Mr. Weibley suggested for the Town to determine the long-range goals for the Town Farm. Mr. Weibley also discussed how most projects within the Town, and on the Town property, could be credited towards WIP requirements to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels.

Mr. Hockman presented the proposed conservation plan for the Town Farm property. He stated the new nutrient management regulations state that no animals are permitted within a minimum of 10 feet of a stream. Mr. Hockman stated the conservation plan proposes to create a 35-foot stream buffer, with a fence and tree plantings, and to place a trough, attached to a water source, approximately 1,300 feet north of the stream. Mr. Hockman stated the placement of the trough would allow for both Mr. Leggett's and Mr. Thomas's cows to have a water source, and allow for a larger buffer from the stream.

Mr. Weibley stated funding is available for 87 percent of the project's cost through the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the process would take approximately two months to complete. He stated the Town may want to approach the farmers about possibly sharing the cost of the project.

The Commission thanked Mr. Weibley and Mr. Hockman for their presentation and plan. Town Planner Clark stated she would be presenting the plan to the Council for consideration to move forward and looked forward to working with WCSCD. (A copy of the proposed plan accompanies these minutes.)

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairperson Schmidt thanked the Waste Reduction Committee for their efforts and noted the Town plans to sign a new waste contract that implements once a week recycling and once a week trash pickup beginning July 1st. Chairperson Schmidt also thanked Member Renner for her work to date on the Strategic Plan and the meeting held last week with members of the Commission regarding the Plan.

Chairperson Schmidt asked for volunteers to work in the Commission's booth at the Green Fest on May 11. Secretary Whitmore volunteered to prepare materials to be displayed at the booth.

Member James stated she had prepared a letter to Clint and Bonnie Pereschuk, owners of Cronise Market Place, thanking them for attending the previous Commission meeting and expressing interest in the Commission and Sustainable Maryland.

Member Renner stated she had spoken to some local farmers who expressed interest in a space for a farmers market.

Liaison Wetzel shared the Mayor and Council had preliminarily accepted the budget for the Commission, which included \$10,000 for commission projects and expenses.

Town Planner Clark stated approximately 25 percent of the Sustainable Maryland Community Surveys had been returned to Town Hall with utility bill payments.

The Commission discussed tallying the results of the survey and agreed Members Whitmore, James, and Vesely would form the Survey Committee and record the results.

NEW BUSINESS

PRIORITIES OF SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED

Secretary Whitmore stated Sustainable Maryland Certified requires two mandatory actions for the Community to become certified.

The Commission voted on the mandatory actions, with Municipal Audit and Watershed Planning gaining the majority votes.

SOLAR PROJECT FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Town Planner Clark stated the Mayor and Council had previously heard proposals for a ground-mounted solar system to serve the wastewater treatment facility. The project would be funded through an investor and the Town would pay for the electric used at the plant, through a power purchase agreement (PPA). She stated she is requesting the Environmental Commission recommend that the Council publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project to open the project to any interested parties. The Commission agreed and would like to review the proposals, once received.

Member Schnackenberg made a **MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO PUBLISH AN RFP FOR THE WWTP SOLAR PROJECT.** Secretary Whitmore seconded the motion. **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE BOONSBORO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (BEC)

The Commission discussed the Objectives, Outlines, and Short Term goals for the Strategic Plan. The Commission agreed to continue the discussion the following meeting and to focus on the format of the plan once the concepts have been approved.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Schmidt declared the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Clark,
Town Planner/Zoning Administrator