

Town of Boonsboro
21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, January 10, 2023

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Amy Jones, Kim Pruitt, Laura Schnackenberg, Janeen Solberg, Kathy Vesely, Andy Watson, Barbara Wetzel, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Kristen Disbennett

PRESIDING: Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November and December minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Garden:

- Nora Roberts Foundation funding: The BEC applied for funding through the Nora Roberts foundation for fencing for the Community Garden. This has been approved and is pending agreement on fence style and design.
- Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) funding: The BEC was not awarded the CBT grant.

Milkweed Plants Provided to Community Members During Tree Giveaway: Milkweed plants were provided to anyone picking up their tree at the Town Tree Giveaway in October 2022. The BEC approved up to \$150 toward this expense. The receipt for \$122 was submitted to the town for reimbursement. Need to follow up to ensure that this was paid.

Dedication: A plaque in memory of Bruce Schmidt will be dedicated on April 23, 2023 at 1:00 during the Town's Arbor Day celebration. The BEC will be requesting that a formal invitation be sent from the Town to members of the Schmidt family. Commission Member Wetzel will write a short message for the Town to include in the invitation to the family.

Compost Bins: There are ten compost bins stored at the community center. They are currently available to town residents for \$20 apiece. A motion was made and seconded to keep two compost bins for community garden usage and offer the remaining eight bins to Keedysville for \$20 each. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Note that the town's website will need to be updated to remove compost bin availability. Commission Member Vesely will follow up with both Keedysville and Boonsboro.

New EV Station: First Energy is still finalizing other locations (not in Boonsboro) and will follow up with the town if another EV station is still an option for Boonsboro.

January Town Newsletter: Thanks to Commission Member Pruitt for her article about the new educational signs installed at the park. The BEC also submitted a short article about the fall tree giveaway.

NEW BUSINESS

Farmers Market: 2022 was a great Farmers Market year! A Farmers Market board member has resigned, so please let Commission Member Vesely know by March 1st if you or someone you know are interested in the position. Additionally, as the Farmers Market Manager will not be able to make it to the market until 5:30 or later each week, Commission Vesely requested assistance setting up the market every week (there is a small stipend available!). Interested candidates please reach out to Vesely by April 1, 2023. Also, it would be a huge

help/timesaver if the Town could paint and number the vendor spots. Greg Huntsberry is looking into this and will get back to Vesely.

2022 Annual Report: Chairperson Ladino presented the 2022 Annual Report for Commission Member review and comment. In summary, the BEC had an extremely active year sponsoring a number of guest speakers and events, securing funding toward a new Community Garden, actively supporting the town's Farmers Market, promoting sustainable and energy saving practices, and keeping town residents informed with engaging newsletter articles.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy: The Town's EV charging station continues to see steady use. Is it possible to get stats from Potomac Edison for the charging station's annual usage to include in the BEC Annual Report? Also of note: As of 01/01/2023 EV Tax credits have changed. Electric cars (sedan) priced below \$60,000.00 and electric SUVs/Trucks priced below \$80,000 are eligible for a tax credit of \$7500.00.

Solid Waste Reduction: The Spring Recycling and Swap event is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2023. The Solid Waste Reduction subcommittee hopes to meet with Jim King of Crushin' It before the next BEC meeting. Commission Member Solberg requested that she be added to the Solid Waste Reduction subcommittee. Solberg outreached to Apple Valley Waste (AVW) recently while trying to address some recent inquiries about glass recycling and may try and schedule a tour of the AVW plant if there's sufficient interest. It was also discussed that Berkeley County, WV still accepts glass for recycling and it is not limited to Berkeley County residents. Solberg will fact-check this information as well.

Strategic Plan/Grants: No update.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening): Commission Member Pruitt is trying to coordinate with Boonsboro Middle School (BMS) to plant one- and two-gallon size trees. Parties are trying to identify a place on the school campus to plant the trees, and we will be offering tree care tips as well. BMS can get Tree Campus K-12 certification through the Arbor Day Foundation (<https://www.arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/>).

Commission Members Wetzel and Vesely are on point for volunteering for *Boonsboro Goes Green* if BMS requests assistance.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers: Vice Chairperson Schnackenberg asked that everyone brainstorm to come up with new ideas for public education/speakers/outreach. Commission Member Wetzel suggested that the BEC reach out to Key City Compost in Frederick. The BEC would like to investigate if there is any opportunity to institute a compost drop-off program in town. Schnackenberg will reach out to Key City Compost.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team: Commission Member Vesely has scheduled a meeting Wednesday, February 1st. The meeting will be an opportunity to catalogue what the BEC and the Town have accomplished over the past three years to earn points toward SMC.

Nominating Committee: Inactive until September 2023.

Community Garden: The Nora Roberts Foundation will be funding the fencing needed to enclose the new Community Garden. A Community Garden Planning Team meeting is scheduled for next week. The final site plan for the garden's first year will be discussed as well as viability for opening the Community Garden for planting in 2023.

TOWN UPDATE:

Town Liaison Hollingshead provided highlights from the January 2023 Mayor and Council meeting including the 2022 State of the Town Address shared by Mayor Howard Long.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

No Commission Member comments.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM

**Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary**

***Next meeting: TUESDAY February 14, 2023 – Regular meeting at 7:00 at Town Annex.**

Any person desiring a transcript of tonight's meeting shall be responsible for a competent stenographer. Items on this agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the Chairman.

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