

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**TUESDAY, January 12, 2021**

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**PRESENT:** **Via GoToMeeting: *Commission Members:*** Chairperson Kathy Vesely, Leah Grasso, Laura Schnackenberg, Amy Jones, Barbara Wetzel, Andy Watson, Cassandra Ladino, Jennifer Clements, Alison Preston, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

**ABSENT:** N/A

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Vesely called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The December minutes were unanimously approved as read.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

EV Charging Station – Andy has requested usage data but has not yet received it. Leah submitted the charging station’s location to another site as well, and also reported that the charging station location shows up on Google Maps. Subway has agreed to post a notice in their store to promote the charging station. Stone Werks will allow a flyer to be hung on their community board. Andy will create flyer and post at Stone Werks. Town Liaison Hollingshead reported that she requested at December Mayor and Council meeting that the Town install directional signs to the EV Charging Station. It was suggested that outreach be made to the Inn as well, to ensure their awareness of the Charging Station for their guests.

One thing that might be mitigating use of the new charging station is the cost. Rates are set by Potomac Edison. BEC discussed the possibility of requesting an incentive from Potomac Edison, and/or the Town or BEC covering all charges for a period of time. Chairperson Vesely will follow up with Town Manager Mantello.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Town newsletter – We earn points toward Sustainable Maryland by contributing environmental/sustainability news items to the town newsletters. Chairperson Vesely suggests that the BEC contribute something to every newsletter. For the April 2021 newsletter, we would like to share sustainable gardening and yard maintenance tips such as how to attract pollinators, building a conservation hardscape, and planting native species.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Waste Reduction** – Spring bulk trash curbside pick-up is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Commission member Wetzel is investigating if there’s an opportunity to provide some recycling services at the park in conjunction with bulk trash. The BEC discussed the pros and cons of offering recycling along with the question of “when”? Each BEC member is asked to submit their thoughts on a recycling event via email to Barb Wetzel by the end of January. The Waste Reduction Committee will meet to discuss and will present their suggestions at the February BEC meeting.

**Strategic Plan/Grants** – Chairperson Vesely asked that Alison keep her eyes open for grant opportunities for Sustainable Maryland.

**Trees** – We are still in need of a third person from BEC to join the Tree Board. Please reach out to Commission member Wetzel if you are able to join this board.

**Public Education/Outreach** – Committee is investigating the opportunity and logistics for having a virtual speaker. They will be reaching out to Emily Dyson (Entsorga), Marie Bikle (Master Gardener), and James Smyle (Appalachian Trail) to assess interest and/or feasibility of a virtual presentation.

**Green Team** – Commission member Clements and Chairperson Vesely met with Kevin Krawczak, the student intern working on the BEC's website for Sustainable Maryland. The website looks great, is easy to navigate, and includes several links for additional information. This site will be an excellent place for us to showcase our events when we are able to return to hosting them. The site also contains a page for local, state, and federal resources. Chairperson Vesely requests that each BEC member submit a picture and a brief biography highlighting environmental interests. Please submit to Commission member Clements by end of January.

**Monarch Butterfly Waystation** – no report.

**Farmer's Market** – Commission member Grasso and Chairperson Vesely met with Market Manager Bonnie Butter via Zoom to review and update the Farmer's Market application, rules, and regulations. The 2021 season will open on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and vendors will have the option to participate for just the "regular" season or for the extended season which will run through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The market is planning to offer MMM (Maryland Market Money) this year if the logistics can be worked out. The market will be located in the parking lot adjacent to the Police station.

**Community Green Spaces** – Commission members Wetzel and Grasso would like to get together with the new Town Planner and tour the town's green spaces in the Spring.

**TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Liaison Hollingshead reported that all paving projects on Park Drive have been completed.

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Commission member Preston inquired if there were any updates related to improved crosswalks in town, especially on Rt. 34 near the library. Town Liaison Hollingshead reported that Boonsboro is first on the state's list when the weather warms up a bit in the spring.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY February 9, 2021 – Via GoToMeeting. Regular meeting at 7:00.**

*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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