

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

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

**TUESDAY, February 9, 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, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead,

Guest: Green Team Member Kim Pruitt

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Clements, Alison Preston

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The January 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as read.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

EV Charging Station Update: Commission member Watson reported that flyers advertising the EV charging station were distributed to all businesses in town, and also that utilization of the station is on the rise. Per Chairperson Vesely's communications with Town Manager Mantello, it is unlikely that the town would subsidize the cost to use the charging stations in the short term; but suggested we reach out to local businesses to see if they would sponsor it for a period of time. Another option to consider would be to utilize some of the BEC budget to cover charging costs for a specific period of time. Chairperson Vesely will follow up with Mantello and will report back at the March meeting. BEC will continue to monitor usage in the interim.

Bios/Pics for Town Website: Green Team members have all submitted bios. Still need bios for remaining BEC member to post on the town website (BEC page). Please try and get them to Jenn Clements by the end of February.

Article for April Town Newsletter: Chairperson Vesely wrote a brief article for the April town newsletter. The BEC would like to include a brief article in every newsletter. Commission member Wetzel suggested that the Public Education/Outreach committee come up with four seasonal ideas and either write the article or solicit a volunteer from the BEC. Deadline for the July newsletter is June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

In conjunction with the town's bulk trash pick-up day, the BEC and Green Fest committee will be hosting a Swap/Drop event at Shafer Park on May 15. This is for recyclables and donations only; no trash. Vendors include: Goodwill, ReStore, and Conservit. TVs will be collected, and

there will be a smaller scale Clothing Swap, a plant swap, and recycling/collection opportunities for shoes, mason jars, ink cartridges, band instruments, and more. The Swap/Drop will run from 9 am to 1 pm, and volunteers are needed.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Waste Reduction** – see Swap/Drop comments, above.

**Strategic Plan/Grants** – Chairperson Vesely will see if there are any grant opportunities coming up.

**Trees** – Commission members Ladino and Wetzel and Green Team member Pruitt attended the first quarter Tree Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included the potential for a tree-care seminar, updating the town’s tree inventory, and ideas for a town Arboretum (potentially a walking arboretum throughout the town). The group further discussed the goals and/or needs of the town.

**Public Education/Outreach** – Master Gardener Marie Bikle would be available to do a presentation when we can do so in-person. The Education/Outreach committee will concentrate on getting speakers who can do their presentations outside when the weather warms up and we can have gatherings greater than 10.

**Green Team** – Chairperson Vesely has been trying to connect with student intern Kevin Krawczak to view the final BEC website for Sustainable Maryland.

**Monarch Butterfly Waystation** – no report.

**Farmer's Market** – Farmer’s Market is still planning to open on April 20<sup>th</sup>. New signs will be ordered since the existing signs have deteriorated. We also would like to modify the sign on the side of the maintenance shop at the park to update dates and location (i.e.: Potomac Street entrance vs. Main Street entrance).

**Green Spaces** – This subcommittee is updating its name to “Green Spaces”.

### **TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Liaison Hollingshead shared a number of updates from the town including the upcoming demolition of the Crestview water treatment building. Also, the yard debris collection site will be open this month on February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 8-12.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Vice Chair Schnackenberg commented that a number of Farmer’s Market vendors are still selling goods during the off season. Look on the Boonsboro Farmer’s Market Facebook page for additional information.

- Commission member Wetzel commented that the Tree Board was excited to learn that the BEC has a Green Spaces subcommittee.
- Kim Pruitt inquired if there was a map of the town's green spaces available, and, if so, is it possible to get a copy of it?
- Chairperson Vesely reviewed the updated roster of BEC Subcommittees for accuracy.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY March 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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