

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, March 8, 2022

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

ABSENT: Kim Pruitt

GUESTS: Susan Simonson – Antietam Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA)

ACWA volunteer Susan Simonson gave an informational presentation about water temperature monitoring of local streams.

Temperature measurements are one of the best and easiest gauges of stream water health. ACWA started doing temperature monitoring three years ago. Temperature monitoring setups are deployed prior to Memorial Day and measure the stream temperatures continuously through Labor Day.

ACWA started stream temperature monitoring in 2020 with 10 sites (in partnership with Beaver Creek Watershed Alliance). In 2021, 28 sites were measured. Data collected indicates that pretty much anything below Funkstown exceeds the temperature standards. Planting trees is one of the best things we can do to cool off the stream water.

The State of Maryland has committed to planting 5 million trees, starting with street trees in urban areas. ACWA has submitted a grant application for funds to plant trees.

Takeaways for the BEC:

- As a commission, do we want to propose/support an ordinance that the town will support tree maintenance (for street trees) and it won't be the homeowner's responsibility.
- Would Boonsboro want additional stream temperature loggers?

PRESIDING: Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The February 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved with correction.

OLD BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Submission: The Environmental Commission submitted its recommendations to the ARPA task force. No updates to date.

Community Garden – The Park Board approved a location near the Boy Scout Building to be used for a community garden.

April Newsletter: The Environmental Commission will include a notice for the May 14th Swap and Recycle event in the April Town newsletter as well as a separate informational flyer for the event. Chairperson Ladino also suggested including information about the community garden along with some gardening tips. Ladino and Commission Member Vesely will provide that information for the newsletter. Thinking ahead, the BEC is considering a Community Garden interest survey for the July newsletter after we have more solid information about funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Garden: As mentioned above, the proposed Community Garden location near the Boy Scout building in the park was approved by the Park Board. Chairperson Ladino shared the presentation that she will be presenting at the Mayor & Council meeting on March 14, 2022.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Solid Waste Reduction: The Swap and Recycle event is scheduled for May 14th. Commission Member Wetzel will try to get some updated recycling and waste numbers specific to Boonsboro from Apple Valley Waste (AVW). Commission Member Solberg commented that she is having issues securing commitment from AVW for the May 14th event, and communication in general from AVW has been lacking. Also, a reminder to bring extra seedlings, seeds, tools, flower pots, and other garden-related items to the Swap and Recycle event.

Strategic Plan/Grants: The BEC has applied for and will be applying for several grants for the community garden.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

All indications point toward another Fall Tree Planting event in 2022. More information will be forthcoming as the date draws near. ACWA volunteer Susan Simonson will be in touch with some of the Town's organizations (i.e.: BEC, Tree Board) for guidance on what locations would be good for additional street trees.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

Big thanks to ACWA volunteer Susan Simonson for tonight's informative presentation about local stream temperature and stream temperature monitoring. We are working to secure additional speakers and welcome any suggestions. Currently we are considering Apple Valley Waste and Entsorga.

SMC Green Team: Commission Member Vesely recently attended a Sustainable Maryland zoom call. The speaker was from University of Maryland (UMD) and was discussing trees appropriate for planting in and around parking lots. Vesely is trying to secure a follow up meeting with the UMD speaker.

Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee inactive until September.

Community Garden: Refer to Community Garden discussions elsewhere in minutes.

Energy: Commission Members Wetzel and Vesely investigated the new post office location to see if EV charging stations were going to be installed. The proposed High's that will be sited near the Post Office will probably have some charging stations.

TOWN UPDATE:

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead reported that the speed limit on Maple Avenue has been changed to 25 mph, and some speed monitors could potentially be installed on Maple Avenue as well.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commission Member Wetzel commented that there are some areas in town without sidewalks which is a safety concern (including parts of Main Street leading to the new Post Office). In addition, when Della Lane was repaved a number of years ago, it was lined so that there'd be a bike lane on one side. The bike lane markings need to be repainted.

Chairperson Ladino inquired if the Town has a conferencing option for virtual meetings. Town Council Liaison Hollingshead advised that the Town no longer supports a virtual conference platform as COVID restrictions have been lifted. Ladino will sign up for a free Zoom account and make it available to BEC members only who are not able to attend a meeting in person.

Commission Member Vesely reported that the Farmers Market committee has been meeting for about a month to plan for the upcoming Farmers Market season. There will be music and two food trucks at the market every week. Fifteen (15) full-time vendor applications have been received. There will also be some part-time vendors (not present every week). The new Farmers Market manager is outstanding! Representatives from the Farmers Market committee will be attending the April Mayor & Council meeting to invite the Mayor & Council to the May 3rd Farmers Market opening day ribbon cutting.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jones, BEC Secretary