

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, March 14, 2023**

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

**ABSENT:** all present

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**April Town Newsletter:** The BEC column for the April Town Newsletter will focus on the Community Garden, compost bins, Farmers Market opening day, and information about the May 13<sup>th</sup> Green Fest Swap and Recycling event (GFS&R).

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Garden: The BEC discussed the following expenditures:

- Tool Shed (\$5,000 - \$6,000). Price is for the shed delivered to the prepared site. Final vote will occur after Community Garden Planning Team chooses specific shed.
- Official Site Survey - \$800. Motion was made and unanimously approved for \$800.00 for site survey.

FY2024 BEC Special Budget Request:

- The Town Manager suggested including a line item to cover costs for the Pet Waste Education goal. Is there potential for additional pet waste disposal stations throughout the town and in the park?
- Each of the subcommittees should be thinking about potential expenses associated with their goals for FY2024. Please provide to Chairperson Ladino prior to the April BEC meeting.

Arbor Day (4/23) and Appalachian Trail Designation (6/3):

- Volunteers are needed to help with the BEC educational activity/program about Leave No Trace, Sustainable Maryland Certified, Pet Waste Education, and/or other topics. For additional information about Leave No Trace please visit: <https://Int.org/our-work/youth-education/youth-educator-library/>. We are hoping that the Boy Scouts will be able to assist with Leave No Trace general information since this is part of the Boy Scout program.
- Potential activity for Arbor Day and Appalachian Trail Designation celebration could be DIY Dog Waste containers.
- Expense approvals:
  - The BEC voted to approve funding in the amount of \$8.00 for the purchase of a Leave No Trace poster to be used at various events.
  - The BEC discussed purchasing Ethics Reference Cards/Tags, but ultimately decided against them.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Energy:**

- There have been 484 charging sessions between December 6, 2020 and March 6, 2022. The charging station is getting used regularly by a variety of electric vehicles.

### **Solid Waste Reduction:**

- Draft of Green Fest Swap & Recycling Event flyer is ready for review and printing, and information has been submitted for the newsletter article.
- Apple Valley Waste has been confirmed for GFS&R, and we also have a contact to speak with regarding a tour of the recycling facility.
- A musician with instruments powered by solar power will be performing at the GFS&R event.
- Key City Compost has provided initial information for proposed compost pick-up at the yard debris site. Middletown has something similar for its residents, and the Solid Waste Reduction subcommittee will investigate and take pictures of Middletown's set-up.
- Committee is still in need of grants available to fund a glass crushing machine that transforms non-recyclable glass bottles into sand.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:** No update, however please note that for any BEC goal or subcommittee priority, members are encouraged to outline the project and budget to support possible grant requests and seek any necessary Town approvals in advance. Chairperson Ladino is able to help with the grant writing and submission once these details are finalized. We need additional volunteers on the Strategic Plan/Grants subcommittee if other subcommittees need help finding grant opportunities.

### **Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):**

- Tree City USA 2022 application was approved. This is the eighth year that Boonsboro has participated. We are waiting to hear back about approval for the growth award affiliated with Tree City USA.
- The People Loving and Nurturing Trees (PLANT) application was submitted by Kim Miller in February. We are awaiting approval.
- Commission Member Pruitt suggested adding a demonstration garden to showcase native plants and shrubs near the recently-added native plants interpretive sign located near the football field in Shafer Park.
- Tree Inventory – Volunteers are needed to help with GIS tree inventory in the April – June timeframe.
- Chairperson Ladino is looking into pursuing the Sustainable Maryland Certified Watershed plan goal with the Town and Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA).
- Commission Member Vesely and Vice Chair Schnackenberg will be planting milkweed seeds in the park on Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:**

- The April 11, 2023 BEC meeting will feature a presentation by Master Gardener Ann Aldrich on Indigenous Food Plants for the gardens. We would also like to learn more about native plants in conjunction with the aforementioned demonstration garden (see "Beautification", above).
- We hope to schedule Phil Wescott of Key City Compost for a future meeting.

### **Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:**

- The Green Team is still gathering information from various town entities that will count toward SMC. The town's Economic Development Commission (EDC) has been extremely helpful by providing information about actions/activities that have been accomplished around town over the past three years that count toward points for SMC. The Green Team is still researching additional ideas to earn points. If some of the initiatives that are currently in-flight (e.g.: Community Garden fencing, town beautification) occur by the end of June they can be included in the initial application which is due June 30, 2023.
- Next Green Team meeting will be April 5, 2023.

**Nominating Committee:** Inactive until September 2023.

**Community Garden:**

- Official site survey has been completed and the Request for Bid (RFB) for the fence can now be posted.
- A soil sample has been taken and a test kit purchased. The soil sample will be mailed out by the end of this week.
- Will Duus (Life Scout) will begin construction of a greenhouse at the end of March.
- Grant Hausler (Life Scout) received Boy Scout approval for the raised garden beds project. The project plan needs to be reviewed by the Mayor and Council for final approval.

**TOWN UPDATE:**

Crestview pump house demolition has been completed. Shafer Park now has a port-a-potty for use during the winter months while the public restrooms are closed. Upcoming Spring and Summer Town events include: Trout Derby, Wagon Train, National Night Out, and the Food Truck Festival.

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Insect Hotels will need approval from the Park Board and Mayor and Council. Commission Member Disbennett will provide some information for the next Park Board meeting.

Chairperson Ladino commented that birding offers opportunity for the town in terms of visibility and revenue. Should we consider establishing some habitats or planting certain things that attract/sustain certain bird species (e.g.: oak trees attract numerous bird species). This is also a great idea for a future newsletter.

Commission Member Wetzel shared the happy news that Ryan Wetzel was named Forester of the Year for the State of Maryland!

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY April 11, 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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