

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, April 11, 2023

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

ABSENT: Kim Pruitt

Special presentation preceding formal meeting: Ann Aldrich, Master Gardener, spoke about sustainable landscaping and native plant advocacy.

PRESIDING: Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 8:30 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Boonsboro's Town Manager will be leaving at the end of April for a new opportunity.

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. Final dollar amount will be reported back to the BEC for approval.

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?
- Commission Member Solberg requested a line item in the BEC annual budget in the amount of \$1000 for the Green Fest Swap and Recycling event. Green Fest used to have a line item in the Town's budget, but it makes sense to move it to BEC budget.
- Commission Member Wetzel requested \$100 to print a small informational flyer detailing what can and cannot be recycled in town. This will be included in the July water bill.

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

- BEC voted to approve \$11.00 to purchase two different styles of dog waste carriers from Amazon to use for demonstration at the Arbor Day and Appalachian Trail Designation events.
- The BEC is collecting certain household items for DIY dog waste carriers.
- BEC voted to approve \$5.00 for shipping cost associated with the purchase of the "Leave No Trace" poster. The cost of the poster (\$8.00) was approved at the March meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy: The charging station is being used regularly by a variety of electric vehicles.

Solid Waste Reduction: Current focus is on Green Fest Swap & Recycling Event. Volunteers are needed!

Strategic Plan/Grants: No update.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening): No update.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- We enjoyed an informative presentation by Master Gardener Ann Aldrich tonight. Ann spoke about sustainable landscaping and native plant advocacy.
- Phil Wescott of Key City Compost will be presenting composting options for the Town of Boonsboro at our May 9th meeting.
- Commission Member Wetzel spoke with Alex Reed, Washington County Watershed Specialist, to see if he would speak with us about Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). We are tentatively scheduling him for our June meeting.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- SMC subcommittee met in March. They are still collecting data and pictures toward SMC recertification.
- Next SMC meeting is planned for May 3rd.

Nominating Committee: Inactive until September 2023.

Community Garden:

- Chairperson Ladino provided revised perimeter planting design for review and discussion. All perimeter plantings will be shrubs so there will be no issue with shading the garden. The Park Board has been advised of the planting plan. The shrubs will not be planted until the fall.
- Pursuing potential donations or possibly a Life Scout projects for tools (e.g.: donations from Home Depot or Tractor Supply). Everyone please keep your eyes open for used hand tools.
- Will Duus (Life Scout) completed construction of the greenhouse at the end of March.
- Fence: The Invitation for Bids (IFB) went to the Mayor and Council for approval on Monday, April 10th. The IFB will be open for one month.
- Grant Hausler (Life Scout) is looking at building four ADA-compliant wheelchair accessible garden beds with potential for additional regular raised beds as funds allow.

TOWN UPDATE:

The Arbor Day proclamation was read at the April 10th Mayor & Council meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commission Member Vesely provided the following update on behalf of the Farmers Market:

- There will be 15 full-time vendors, ten part-time vendors, two drop-in vendors, five food trucks, and two musicians (food trucks and music on a rotating basis).
- Parking lot lines have been repainted and the spots will be numbered.
- Although we normally shift the BEC meeting start time to 7:30 during Farmers Market season, we will be leaving it at 7:00 for the time being since we have speakers lined up for the next couple of months.

Commission Member Wetzel spoke with Chad Rooney, Town Manager for Williamsport, about street sweeping. Williamsport has a street sweeper, and they are open to the idea of coming to Boonsboro to do our sweeping. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of purchasing a street sweeper (potentially via a grant). Town Liaison Hollingshead will have someone call the Town of Brunswick, which recently purchased a street sweeper, for a cost estimate.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

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

***Next meeting: TUESDAY May 9, 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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