

Draft

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

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

**TUESDAY, May 9, 2023**

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

**ABSENT:** Kristen Disbennett

**Special presentation preceding formal meeting:** Phil Wescott, from Key City Compost in Frederick, MD, provided information about Key City's operations and capabilities, and presented composting options for the Town of Boonsboro.

Representatives from Community Solar shared information about their company and the potential for savings on residential electric bills.

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 8:03 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The April minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

FY2024 BEC Special Budget Request was submitted for \$3,500.00

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Arbor Day/Park Clean-Up celebration! Also, special recognition and thanks to the four scout troops that participated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Garden:

- The BEC unanimously approved funding in the amount of \$5,646.80 for the purchase of a tool shed for the Community Garden.
- The remaining FY2023 Special Projects Budget (after shed purchase) is approximately \$6500.00. From that, we should prioritize purchase of the more expensive and less likely to be donated items such as raised beds, benches, electric lawn mower and weed eater. Commission Member Wetzel suggested that we seek donations from businesses (e.g.: Home Depot, Tractor Supply) for items as well.
- Another Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the Community Garden fence will be published in October of this year.

Compost:

- Need to move swiftly with further due diligence regarding Key City Compost for compost pick-up for the Town so that it can be included in the FY2024 budget.
- Waste Reduction Committee will develop a proposal and recommendation for BEC review and will then present to Mayor & Council. Compost service would likely show as a line item under "sanitation".

Appalachian Trail Designation (6/3):

- A few volunteers are needed to help with trash pick up around Washington Monument at about 4:00 pm.

- A few recycling bins are needed for the Appalachian Trail Designation event on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Chairperson Ladino is still collecting “to go” kids cup lids, pop-up wipe containers, and other items for a DIY project.
- Small glass jars are being collected for another Appalachian Trail Advisory Committee DIY activity (can we redirect from the glass crusher at May 13<sup>th</sup> Green Fest Swap & Recycling event?).
- The BEC voted to donate \$350 to the EDC to use toward Appalachian Trail celebration. The motion passed by a 5-2 margin.

Potomac Edison plans to install a second EV charging station. Construction plan will be shared with Mayor and Council.

Chairperson Ladino will potentially be attending a GIS conference at Towson University. The BEC voted unanimously to approve the registration fee of \$165.00.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Energy:**

- The list of current electric vehicles eligible for the full \$7500 tax credit has changed effective April 18<sup>th</sup> and now includes: Tesla Models 3 and Y (AWD and Performance), Ford F150 Lightning (standard and extended range battery), Chevrolet Bolt and Bolt EUV, Cadillac Lyriq
- EVs eligible for a partial tax credit of \$3750 include: Tesla Model 3 RWD, Jeep Wrangler and Cherokee Plug-in hybrid 4xe, Ford E-Transit, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Ford Escape Plug-in hybrid, Lincoln Corsair Grand Touring

#### **Solid Waste Reduction:**

- The current focus is on Green Fest Swap & Recycling Event which will be held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed!
- After the Swap & Recycling Event the committee will continue to investigate the possibility of a compost drop-off site for residents, as well as grants necessary to purchase a glass crushing machine to reduce the volume of glass entering the landfill and, subsequently, driving up tipping fees.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:** No update.

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

- The Tree Board will be meeting with a temporary point-of-contact from Town Hall to discuss logistics for the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) grant prior to trees being ordered. We should have a final plan over the next few months for the Fall 2023 planting.

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

- Phil Wescott of Key City Compost presented composting options for the Town of Boonsboro at tonight’s meeting.
- Alex Reed, Washington County Watershed Specialist, will discuss Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) at either the June or July BEC meeting.

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

- SMC subcommittee last met in March. They are still collecting data and pictures toward SMC recertification.

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

#### **Community Garden:**

Perimeter planting quotes for the Community Garden:

- The Community Garden team plans to purchase perimeter plantings from Tremendous/Clear Ridge nursery if Fall tree giveaway trees are also ordered here, otherwise delivery costs don't make this a cost-effective choice.
- Stadler's and Sunny Meadows are other options and are comparable in price.

Grant Hausler (Life Scout) plans to begin construction of four wheelchair accessible raised beds on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Completed tasks:

- Perimeter planting design approved.
- Greenhouse construction completed (Will Duus, Life Scout).
- Fence – Invitation for Bids was approved by Mayor and Council on April 10<sup>th</sup>. IFB has been re-published.

### **TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead spoke with the Town of Brunswick regarding their street sweeping program. Their biggest issue is what to do with the debris that they sweep up.

Disc Golf and a dog park have been approved for Shafer Park.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Commission Secretary Jones will be absent from the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and a volunteer is needed to record the minutes.

Commission Member Vesely reported Farmers Market attendance of more than 400 on opening day and about 385 customers at today's market (5/9).

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY June 13, 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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