

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, May 11, 2021**

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Laura Schnackenberg, Amy Jones, Barbara Wetzel, Andy Watson, Cassandra Ladino, Jennifer Clements, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Leah Grasso, Alison Preston

Guests: Green Team member Kim Pruitt; Jim King (Crushin' It); John Canan (Appalachian Trail Community Designation)

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

Jim King of **Crushin' It** provided a demonstration of his glass crushing machine which turns glass to sand. This model of crusher is intended for bars, wineries, resorts - any place that generates a large number of bottles. A municipality would need a larger machine to accommodate the volume. There's also an emulsion you can buy that mixes with the crushed glass and makes an asphalt patch.

John Canan provided a presentation about Appalachian Trail Community Designation. Boonsboro was close to being an AT Designated Community in 2020, but wasn't able to complete the process, so we would need to start afresh. The intent of the program is to extend stewardship along the trail and promote conservation. The AT is working to have a more symbiotic relationship with communities along the trail. An AT Designated Community would promote volunteer opportunities, organize day hikes, promote the principles of conservation. Would it make sense to have a cross-functional team with members from different Boonsboro commissions as well as general volunteers? Washington County Visitors Bureau is interested in Boonsboro pursuing this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. July town newsletter: Commission member Wetzel is writing an article focusing on what Apple Valley Waste will and will not accept for curbside recycling.
2. Swap and Recycling Event: Scheduled for May 15th from 9-1 at Shafer Park. Please plan to volunteer as you are able.
3. BEC Budget update: Chairperson Vesely and Vice Chair Schnackenberg worked on the BEC budget. The Tree Board will not need any funds from the BEC as previously thought as the town is covering the cost of a second GIS license. The BEC voted unanimously to approve the budget as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nominating Committee: Commission member Preston is resigning her seat on the BEC, so we will be advertising for a replacement member. Last year we had discussed creating a nominating committee; please consider joining. Looking for maybe three members.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Waste Reduction – Please attend the Swap/Recycle event on May 15.

Strategic Plan/Grants – No report.

Trees – The Tree Board is collaborating with the town for GIS software to inventory trees. The town is providing an extra license for the Tree Board to share which will result in some fun and creative functions. This will occur after July when the new budget is in place. The Tree Board also had an Arbor Day celebration and planted a new tree in Shafer Park. Jeff Davidson presented a tree care seminar.

Public Education/Outreach – No report.

Green Team – Chairperson Vesely has been attending Wednesday webinars through Sustainable Maryland Certified.

Monarch Butterfly Waystation – The Monarch Butterfly Waystation was recently weeded and mulched by the Boy Scouts and looks great! Thanks to the town for supplying the mulch and to the Boy Scouts for all of their hard work!

Farmer's Market – The Farmer's Market will be getting some new signage to display in Shafer Park as well as at the Historical Park.

Green Spaces – No update.

TOWN UPDATE:

The Wagon Train will be arriving at Shafer Par on May 16th; a dive team will be looking for leaks in the town's reservoir on May 14th; the town is hoping that the road at the square in town will be addressed by MHA in the summer/fall of this year; and the town would save \$150/mailling if they stopped including envelopes with the water bills.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Commission member Watson: Poolesville Green, a large assembly of electric car owners, is hoping to have more involvement from western Maryland.
- Green Team member Kim Pruitt inquired if there is any opportunity to do composting at the town level, either Curbside or drop off? Commission member Wetzel commented that there is a company in Frederick that we spoke with some time ago, and maybe now post-COVID would be a good time to revisit.
- Commission member Ladino reminded the BEC not to forget to sign up for the fall tree giveaway!

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

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY May 11, 2021 – 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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