

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, June 8, 2021

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

ABSENT: Leah Grasso; Jennifer Clements

Guests: Green Team member Kim Pruitt

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. July town newsletter: Commission member Wetzel has written an article for the town's July newsletter outlining what items Apple Valley Waste accepts in curbside recycling.
2. Nominating committee: Commission member Jones and Vice Chair Schnackenberg will be staffing the BEC nominating committee. The charge of the nominating committee is to select nominees for officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) for annual elections and to screen applications for potential new BEC members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BEC Application Review – Current Green Team member Kim Pruitt applied to become a BEC member and fulfill the remainder of Alison Preston's term (expiring 04/2022). After discussing Kim's application, the BEC voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council approve Kim's appointment.
2. Compost pickup: The BEC discussed the possibility of introducing a compost pickup service to town, possibly collected at a central location. Composting and keeping food waste out of trash would reduce weight resulting in lower tipping fees for trash and potential savings for the town. A commercial compost set-up would also accommodate those harder-to-compost items such as compostable utensils and containers.
3. Plastic-free July: BEC members are encouraged to visit www.plasticfreejuly.org, and consider how we can implement ideas to reduce our personal plastic consumption.
4. AT Designated Community – Discussion postponed until the July meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Waste Reduction – No report.

Strategic Plan/Grants – The BEC completed a Strategic Plan in 2019, however since the plan is fluid, the BEC agreed that an annual update will need to be completed by our October 2021 meeting. Chairperson Vesely will distribute the current Strategic Plan to all BEC members.

Trees – The Tree Board will be applying for a \$1,000.00 grant from The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC). The application is due July 15th. The Tree Board intends to use the money to purchase additional trees for the town to be planted on public town land. Commission member Ladino also reported that 84 households have applied for the town's fall tree giveaway. The BEC further discussed the possibility of a "Riverwalk" or walking paths through the undeveloped acreage in Sycamore Run. Could we find a design grant opportunity?

Public Education/Outreach – There is potential for Hagerstown local Mike Sokol to provide a demonstration of his two solar campers and all-electric tow vehicles at the next BEC meeting (or possibly prior to). Sokol and a colleague will be embarking on a cross-country journey with their solar and electric equipment and will be reporting and doing pod casts to chronicle the adventure.

Green Team – Chairperson Vesely attends the Wednesday Webinars through Sustainable Maryland Certified whenever possible.

Monarch Butterfly Waystation – no report

Farmers Market – Beautiful new Farmers Market signs have been installed at Shafer Park!

Green Spaces – No update.

TOWN UPDATE:

The next Mayor and Council meeting is next Monday, June 14th.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Chairperson Vesely inquired if we'd prefer to continue meeting at the park, or move back to Town Hall since it has reopened. The consensus is to continue meeting at the park but have Town Hall standby in the event of inclement weather.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY July 13, 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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