

**Town of Boonsboro**  
21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713  
Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, July 11, 2023**

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**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:** Alex Reed, Washington County Watershed Specialist/MS4 permitting

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The May minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved. There was no BEC meeting in June.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The remaining FY23 BEC budget was spent on the following:

- Eight raised metal beds for community garden
- Six metal benches for community garden
- Creeping Thyme for Monarch butterfly garden
- Graphics for community garden
- Grading work, materials, and lunch for Town Maintenance (for community garden)
- Key City Compost service startup
- TUgis conference registration

Town Newsletter: The BEC submitted an article introducing the new compost service in town (Key City Compost), as well as an informative article with updates about the community garden.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Potomac Edison plans to install a second EV charging station in town, likely in Shafer Park. A construction plan was shared with the Mayor and Council.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Energy:**

- Many manufacturers are jumping on board Tesla's North American Charging Standard plug (effective in 2024).
- Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Maryland brought back a tax credit of up to \$3k for the purchase of an electric vehicle with a battery capacity of at least four hours and sticker not exceeding \$50k.
- Charging station rebate: residents and business can get up to 40% of the cost of charging station installation credited (max \$700 residential; \$4k for businesses).
- Commission member Wetzel commented that part of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes building a nationwide network of 500,000 EV chargers to accelerate the adoption of EVs.

**Solid Waste Reduction:**

- The Solid Waste Reduction subcommittee developed a proposal for a compost service through Key City Compost which was presented to and approved by the Mayor and Council and implemented on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Information about the new compost service was shared in the Town newsletter, however additional advertising needs to be done (flyers, signage, mailing, press release). The green compost bin is located at the Community Center. The BEC is considering inviting Phil Wescott of Key City Compost back in the fall for Q&A with town residents.

- The Farmers Market is collecting small recyclables throughout the month of July.
- Commission Member Wetzal spoke with Williamsport Town Manager, Chad Rooney regarding use of Williamsport's street sweeper in Boonsboro. Mr. Rooney will reach out to Boonsboro's Town Manager to discuss logistics.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:** All BEC members are asked to research potential funding to support the town's new compost program with Key City Compost in future years. Also, what funding is available for a glass crushing machine for the town?

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

- The next tree board meeting will be July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- There are no updates related to GIS at this time.
- The Monarch butterfly garden requires regular maintenance. Big thanks to the BEC members who have assisted with weeding, watering, and upkeep.

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:**

- The BEC would like to invite Phil Wescott of Key City Compost for a return visit for Q&A about the new compost service. We will be including additional composting information with the Q3 water bill so will plan on scheduling Phil in the fall.
- This would be an excellent opportunity to share information about proper disposal of pet waste as well (it is not compostable and is bad for the water quality).

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

- The SMC Green Team submitted the SMC recertification in advance of the deadline. The recertification is due every three years, and this was our fourth submission. Big THANKS to the Green Team and Town staff who were instrumental in getting the submission completed. We are now awaiting feedback, and will have until 09/30/2023 to turn in the final submission. One opportunity for improvement is education and outreach.

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

**Community Garden:**

Completed:

- Official logo commissioned
- Town webpage updated
- Purchased benches and raised beds
- Purchased and ordered shed
- Perimeter planting design approved
- Greenhouse construction completed (Will Duus, Life Scout)
- Fence: Invitation for Bids (IFB) went to Mayor and Council for approval on April 10<sup>th</sup>. IFB will be posted in the fall and will be open for one month.

Information and advertising for the Community Garden will be posted in the October newsletter.

There will be a Community Garden meeting next week.

Some of the raised beds are wheelchair accessible hence their V-shape design.

**TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead shared that the new solar crosswalk signal at Shafer Park Drive and Orchard Drive is installed and just needs the state to turn it on.

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Commission Member Wetzel commented that the National Road and Trolley Museums would benefit from a small stipend from the Town. These are non-profit organizations and need funding to help with infrastructure.

Commission Member Watson inquired if there were plans to install a water spigot at the new dog park. This will probably be considered when the permanent dog park location is established.

Commission Member Wetzel commented that the flower beds behind Town Hall look lovely!

Some commission members also noted some flies around the compost container, so we should monitor this and adjust the location if needed. A suggestion was made that we install signage at the pavilions to direct people to use the compost bin, and ask the town to include information about the compost bins to those who rent the pavilions.

Commission Member Vesely shared that the Farmers Market has been getting about 400 customers/week, and there are generally about 15 vendors each week.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY August 8, 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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