

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, July 12, 2022

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Amy Jones, Kim Pruitt, Janeen Solberg, Kathy Vesely, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Laura Schnackenberg, Andy Watson, Barb Wetzel

PRESIDING: Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The June 2022 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with one correction.

OLD BUSINESS

July Town Newsletter: The July Town Newsletter had a formatting issue that impacted the article about fireflies submitted by the BEC. The Town posted the corrected article via Facebook. Also included was an article about the Fall Tree Giveaway.

Community Garden: A community garden interest survey was included in the July utility bill. Council Liaison Hollingshead reports that a few surveys have been received back at Town Hall. Survey results will be discussed at the August BEC meeting.

The Community Garden Subcommittee will begin meeting after the August BEC meeting.

Butterfly Waystation: Milkweed and Creeping Thyme were planted in the Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Shafer Park. Commission Member Vesely and Chairperson Ladino have been reimbursed from the BEC budget for the plants that they purchased,

Boonsboro Commissions Meet-and-Greet: Several BEC members were in attendance at the June 23rd Commission Meet-and-Greet. BEC Chairperson Ladino presented the BEC strategic plan goals and commented on the BEC's interest in reviewing and potentially updating the Town's street tree ordinance. Jeff Davidson also spoke on behalf of the Tree Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Plaques: Four new plaques (two new and two replacement) have been ordered for the trees in Shafer Park. Big thanks to Commission Member Pruitt for coordinating this initiative!

Appalachian Trail Advisory Committee: The Appalachian Trail Advisory Committee (ATAC) will be a multi-commission initiative toward the goal of Boonsboro becoming an Appalachian Trail Community. The first priority will be to submit an application to become a designated Appalachian Trail Community. A secondary goal will be to build a Cultural Trail between Washington Monument and Fox Gap. Funds will need to be raised to develop the design plans as well as the actual construction costs of the trail. The first ATAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 13, 2022. Chairperson Ladino, Commission Member Solberg (as an alternate), and Vice Chairperson Schnackenberg (primarily representing the Park Board) volunteered to represent the BEC on ATAC.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Solid Waste Reduction: The fall bulk clean up and recycling event is scheduled for Saturday October 8th from 8-12 in the community center parking lot. In addition to bulk trash drop off, there will be a "free zone" and many recycling opportunities. Next year's Green Fest Swap and Recycling event is scheduled for May 13, 2023. An idea for the BEC article for the October newsletter might be a short article about how easy and inexpensive it is to recycle electronics at the Washington County landfill.

Strategic Plan/Grants: No update.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening): Commission Member Pruitt inquired if there is still an interest in beautifying the downtown area perhaps with planters around the square and/or educational mini-gardens. Hanging baskets on the light posts are not an option as the light posts will not support the weight of the hanging basket. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) might be coordinating some updates to the planters on Main Street, so we will need to follow up with the EDC on this.

Shepherdstown, WV has added a number of benches to the downtown German Street area largely funded by sponsorships. The benches are painted with different local scenes. This might be something to keep in mind for Boonsboro. It would be nice to have benches and a garden similar to what's at the library at the Historical Park or at the open space lot at the educational campus.

GIS Consultant: The RFP statement has been finalized and put out for bid for a GIS consultant for the town. This was approved by the Mayor and Council at the July 11, 2022 meeting.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers: No update.

SMC Green Team: Commission Member Vesely received a thank you from Mike Hunninghake in support of SB-14, continuous funding for sustainable Maryland.

Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee inactive until September.

Community Garden: There are two Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant opportunities. One is for \$5k and is being earmarked for this year's fall tree giveaway. The second has two options that are applicable for potential community garden funding. The Outreach and Restoration Grant Program offers up to \$30k for "Outreach/Knowledge Building Projects" and up to \$50k for "Behavior Change Projects." A decision will be made which grant option seems most viable for ensuring support of the community garden. The application submission date for both grants is August 10, 2022. Chairperson Ladino will work with the Town Grant Writer toward the August 10 submission date. We anticipate an eight-week turnaround at a minimum. The BEC also has \$12.5k in the Special Projects budget. The Town has asked that the BEC not spend that money on the community garden until some grant funds are obtained. If the community garden project isn't realized in this fiscal year, other initiatives might include establishing a butterfly or sensory garden at the Historical Park.

Energy: No update.

TOWN UPDATE:

The Town is meeting with a representative from the Maryland Department of Transportation on July 18th to review and discuss Safe Routes to School. The Public Safety Commission is starting back up and will have oversight for National Night Out on August 2nd. A dedication and reception for the Master Gardeners' Butterfly Garden at the library is scheduled for August 18th at 10:00 am.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairperson Ladino will verify Commission Member Pruitt's BEC appointment date and ensure that it's in sync with the Town website.

Commission Member Vesely commented that there is a mini-recycling event at the Farmers Market in conjunction with plastic free July. Small recyclables such as ink cartridges, eye glasses, batteries, toothbrushes, and empty toothpaste tubes are being collected. Commission Member Solberg encouraged everyone to review Common Market's website for a list of things that they collect for recycling.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY August 9, 2022 – Regular meeting at 7:30 at Shafer Park Pavilion 2**

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.