

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, July 13, 2021**

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

ABSENT: Leah Grasso; Jennifer Clements

Guests: Mike Sokol, Go Green RV gave an excellent presentation and Q&A related to his plans for testing, reviewing, and boondock camping with an all-electric vehicle, a hybrid truck with generator, and solar panel-equipped campers

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The Town's newsletter in July featured an article penned by Commission Member Wetzel detailing what items Apple Valley Waste accepts in curbside recycling. A great refresher for all!

The BEC is still researching how to become an Appalachian Trail Designated Community and hope to resume this discussion at the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Vesely and Commission Member Watson contributed to an article featured in the May/June 2021 issue of Maryland Municipal League (MML) Magazine entitled, "Incentives Help Innovative Maryland Municipalities Change the World Incrementally". Vesely and Watson detailed the process of having an EV charging station installed in town.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Waste Reduction – Commission Member Watson inquired if the town had ever considered a sewer or drain sock to catch debris as it exits spillways. This would help to contain litter from flowing downstream in the park.

Strategic Plan/Grants – Town Manager Mantello forwarded comments on the BEC Strategic Plan. Chairperson Vesely and Commission Member Ladino will meet to discuss, and will provide an update at the August BEC meeting.

Trees – A MUCFC grant in combination with a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant will cover the cost of the fall tree giveaway. Neither grant has been awarded yet, but if received, the funds will reimburse the town which is fronting the money. The goal is to plant 250 trees on private properties and 250 trees on public land. Currently 228 trees have been reserved by private property owners. The Tree Board met recently with the town to determine where the trees would be planted and finalize maps, with a focus on visible public areas. It would be

nice to get some tall tree species planted at the parking lot where the farmers market is held, although there could be concerns about visibility into the parking lot from the police station. 74 trees are earmarked for Shafer Park. In total 500 trees will be planted.

Public Education/Outreach – Mike Sokol presented information and a Q&A on his Go Green RV project. Sokol and a colleague hope to embark 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 – No report.

Monarch Butterfly Waystation – From the Monarch Watch newsletter, there is a need for swamp milkweed seeds from the Eastern region. Look for the seed pod after the flowers have bloomed and scrape the seeds out.

Farmers Market – Attendance is really down this year for reasons unknown. This could be attributable to the heat or the fact that more places are open this year vs. last year, or even the resumption of vacations. The Farmers Market committee is asking that everyone please share the FM FaceBook posts to get the word out about our lovely market. Chairperson Vesely requested that Council Liaison Hollingshead suggest to the Mayor and Council that they make efforts to attend and support the market and the vendors. There are lots of fun events planned for the market including buy local, “corn festival”, peach theme, bring your dog, etc.... The Farmers Market committee will be meeting next week to discuss plans for the future of the market.

Green Spaces – See “Trees” report above.

TOWN UPDATE:

Council Liaison Hollingshead was unable to attend last month’s meeting, so couldn’t submit Kim Pruitt’s name to fill the vacant BEC seat. She will bring it up at the July meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commission Member Watson commented that the EV station in town is being used by a variety of different vehicles.

Chairperson Vesely reported that \$93.00 for the Swap and Recycle banner was approved and paid by the town from the BEC budget.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY August 10, 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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