

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, August 8, 2023

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The July minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

Potomac Edison plans to install a second EV charging station. It will most likely be at the Community Center parking lot, pending approval by the Mayor and Council.

October Town Newsletter: The BEC newsletter article for October will include a short article about proper pet waste disposal (supporting a SMC project), an update on the town compost bin, an update on the community garden, and information about the Fall bulk trash and recycling event scheduled for October 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy: The EV charging station located behind Town Hall is still being used with some consistency. We are hopeful that the new EV station will be up and running in the late Fall, pending site approval.

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Commission Member Wetzel shared a draft compost information flyer which will be included with the Q3 water bill. Other informational flyers detailing what can and cannot be composted in the town compost receptacle have been posted around town.
- We hope to receive feedback from Key City Compost in terms of pounds collected per month.
- The Fall Bulk Trash and Recycling event will be October 14th from 8-12. Apple Valley Waste, Conservit, Goodwill, Restore, electronics recycling and others will be participating in the event.
- Commission Member Wetzel shared a comprehensive list of items you can drop off at any Staples for recycling.

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- BEC members are asked to keep an eye out for grants that we can use toward future year compost costs as well as grants for the town to purchase a glass crushing machine.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- The Town has declined the opportunity for street tree plantings from the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Urban Trees Grant Program at this time as there were too many logistics to work through in time for trees to be planted in the fall. This grant is available fairly often, so we hope to pursue it again in the future.
- We will not be doing a fall tree giveaway this year, but are looking for a small amount of funding to replace some of the prior years' trees that didn't survive.

- Town residents Susie Wycoski and her brother are assisting with the upkeep of the Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- The BEC hopes 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 October or November.
- This would also 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 initial SMC recertification submission yielded 27 comments from the internal reviewers. The second submission has been sent in, and we anticipate response in about two weeks.
- One opportunity for improvement is increased community involvement. Commission Member Vesely plans to attend a green team meeting in Middletown to see how they operate and potentially pick up some best practices.
- There will be a “dog day” at the farmers market in September. This will be an excellent opportunity to share information about proper pet waste disposal (an SMC initiative).

Nominating Committee:

- Inactive until September 2023, but please let the Nominating Committee know if you are interested in running for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, or Secretary. Voting will take place in October.

Community Garden:

- The Community Garden committee is currently working on garden bylaws, rules of operation, and an application form.

TOWN UPDATE:

The Mayor and Council meeting is next Monday, so there was no update to share tonight.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairperson Ladino met someone who might be interested in joining the BEC if a vacancy becomes available.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY September 12, 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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