

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**TUESDAY, August 9, 2022**

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**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Amy Jones, Laura Schnackenberg, Janeen Solberg, Kathy Vesely, Andy Watson

**ABSENT:** Barb Wetzel, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead, Kim Pruitt

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The July 2022 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Community Garden:** Results are in from the community garden interest survey that was included in the July utility bill:

- 47 of 80 (59%) responded that there is value in a community garden.
- 35 of 47 (74%) would support a small annual fee.
- 13 people volunteered to be on the garden subcommittee.

The Community Garden Subcommittee anticipates holding its initial meeting in September.

Commission Member Vesely stopped by the new community garden in Walkersville, MD and took some pictures specifically to showcase the fencing.

**Butterfly Waystation:** Volunteers weeded, installed cardboard weed block, and mulched the Monarch Butterfly Waystation in Shafer Park. Many thanks to all who helped, and to the Town for providing the mulch. Chairperson Ladino will email Greg Huntsberry to advise that there's leftover mulch that can be removed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appalachian Trail Task Force:** The Appalachian Trail Task Force (ATTF) held its first meeting on July 13, 2022. The BEC was asked to come up with an activity or educational event for the Appalachian Trail celebration to be held at South Mountain recreation area (near the Washington Monument) for National Trails Day, June 3, 2023. Commission Member Solberg suggested that we provide information/education about not leaving trash of any type on the trail (or anywhere).

**October Town Newsletter:** Commission Members Solberg and Vesely will be researching electronics recycling for the BEC's article for the October Town Newsletter.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Solid Waste Reduction:** A reminder that the fall bulk clean up and recycling event will be held October 8, 2022 at Shafer Park. Please consider volunteering. Volunteers will be needed as early as 7:00 am.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:** No update.

**Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):** The Tree Board met August 2, 2022. The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) grant, which had been delayed, has now been funded! The Tree Board plans to use the grant money for educational signs in the park as well as educational pamphlets/materials that can be distributed at various town events.

The RFP for a GIS consultant went out August 1, 2022 with a \$10k cap.

Susan Simonson, representing Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA), attended the recent Tree Board meeting to discuss the Urban Tree Grant that was awarded to ACWA. Areas of Boonsboro are designated to receive trees via this grant. The Tree Board will review the list of sites around town for potential tree plantings and will communicate tree planting plans to property owners and secure approval for tree plantings as necessary. The Tree Board will also determine the appropriate tree species to align with specific conditions (i.e.: overhead power lines or sunlight requirements). The Tree Board is hoping to have this work completed prior to the next Tree Board meeting in October.

A fall tree giveaway is scheduled for October 9, 2022. It would be fantastic to find an organization to provide milkweed plants (not just seeds) and give them to folks when they pick up their trees at the tree giveaway. One consideration is to ask Mary Cottone of Good Gracious Gardens if she would start some milkweed seeds for us. Vice Chairperson Schnackenberg will reach out and inquire.

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:** Still no luck connecting with a representative from Entsorga, but will continue trying. We are also hoping to identify a resource to give a talk about Monarch butterflies especially in light of the Monarch's recent addition to the endangered species list.

**SMC Green Team:** No update.

**Nominating Committee:** Please let the Nominating Committee (Laura Schnackenberg and Amy Jones) know if you are interested in running for BEC office. Positions include BEC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Elections will be held during the October 2022 BEC meeting and officer terms become effective in November.

**Community Garden:** The recent community garden survey yielded 13 individuals interested in volunteering on the Community Garden subcommittee. Chairperson Ladino suggested that a Community Garden kick-off meeting be held in September to facilitate introductions, provide education on how a community garden works, and explain what has been done thus far toward establishing Boonsboro's Community Garden.

The BEC applied for a grant of up to \$50k through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Outreach and Restoration Grant Program. If awarded, the funds will be designated to the Community Garden.

**Energy:** Part of the Inflation Reduction Act going through Congress includes a solar rebate extension through 2034 and numerous financial incentives for items such as heat pumps, heat pump dryers, and electrical panel upgrades. The electric vehicle industry would also see its tax incentives extended with up to \$7,500 in tax credits for buyers.

## **TOWN UPDATE:**

No town update as Town Council Liaison Hollingshead was absent. Town residents were notified of an upcoming hearing scheduled for August 15 at 6:00 pm to discuss the proposed extension of Chase Six Blvd through to Maple Ave and the intersection realignment at Campus Drive. Please consider attending to show your support.

## **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Commission members Pruitt and Wetzel's terms both expire in November 2022. Both are three-year terms.

Commission members Vesely and Wetzel met with Kyle Sonneveldt of Living Canopies to price out a "living wall" for the parking lot where the Farmer's Market is held. Prices range from \$8800 to \$13k.

National Farmers Market week was celebrated at the Boonsboro Farmer's Market today. Most vendors were running specials. Attendance is up this year and the market is thriving. Many thanks to the market management team for their hard work and dedication!

Commission member Solberg reminded everyone of the grand opening of the Master Gardeners sensory garden at the library in Boonsboro on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

A reminder that if you have plastic nursery pots of any size, you can drop them off at Commission member Solberg's house on Main Street.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY September 13, 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.*

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