

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

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

**TUESDAY, September 13, 2022**

---

**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Amy Jones, Kim Pruitt, Barb Wetzel, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

**ABSENT:** Laura Schnackenberg, Janeen Solberg, Kathy Vesely, Andy Watson

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:49 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The August 2022 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with correction.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Community Garden:**

- The community garden subcommittee kick-off meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Town Hall. Eight of the 13 potential subcommittee respondents have RSVP'd to attend the kick-off meeting.
- There is no update on the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant application in the amount of \$50k. We anticipate an eight-week turnaround time on this grant. If this funding is not secured, the Community Garden subcommittee will need to investigate and consider less expensive alternatives for fencing, etc. The Town has requested that budgeted funds (i.e.: \$12.5K in the BEC Special Projects budget) not be spent toward the community garden unless grant funding has been secured.

**Butterfly Waystation:** Mulch leftover from weeding and re-mulching the Monarch Butterfly Waystation was picked up by the Town and the area where the mulch had been was overseeded.

**Appalachian Trail Task Force:** The Appalachian Trail Task Force (ATTF) approved the BEC's proposal to provide information and education about not leaving trash of any type on the trail.

**October Town Newsletter:** Commission Members Solberg and Vesely will contribute an article about electronics recycling for the October Town Newsletter. Submission deadline is mid-September.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Approvals:**

- The BEC voted to approve \$100-\$150 from the Special Projects budget payable to Mary Cottone for 20-30 milkweed plants at \$4.99 each for the Fall Tree giveaway.
- The BEC discussed committing \$5k in support of a GIS consultant for the Town to support Tree Inventory/CrowdSourcing application/Interactive Maps for statistical analysis and public communications related to Town goals. A vote on the issue will be postponed until the October BEC meeting, at the earliest, and is dependent on if the town chooses to pursue a GIS consultant.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Solid Waste Reduction:** A reminder that the fall bulk trash drop-off and recycling event will be held October 8, 2022 at Shafer Park from 8 am -12 pm. Volunteers will be needed as early as 7:00 am. TVs and electronics will be collected, and the glass crushing machine will be on site as well. Reminder that this is for town residents only.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:** Sustainable Maryland Pepco Grant – unfortunately Boonsboro is not eligible for this grant as it is for Montgomery and Prince George’s County initiatives only.

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

- Town reviewing GIS consultant proposals: The top two consultants will be asked to present to the Town. The Mayor and Council will review and approve at their September or October meeting.
- Possible pollinator garden in Knode Circle: Residents agreed to a planting plan in Knode Circle. Chairperson Ladino suggested a pollinator garden be planted; however, this will have to be approved by Knode Circle residents. Elsewhere in town there’s a lot of potential for additional pollinator gardens to be planted in the Sycamore Run development’s retention ponds.
- Commission Member Pruitt spoke with Mark Kohut, treasurer for Shepherdstown Shares, to learn more about the benches around Shepherdstown. Each bench costs about \$1,000. Pruitt is hoping to connect with the carpenter and the artist who built and decorated the benches. We would need to pursue grant funding if we choose to pursue this initiative.
- Chairperson Ladino, Commission Member Pruitt, and Jeff Davidson of the Tree Board surveyed Main Street to verify that the sites identified in Antietam Conococheague Watershed Alliance’s (ACWA) grant proposal are appropriate for certain species on the native tree list. Resident approval will be needed in some instances.

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:** We will no longer be pursuing Entsorga as a speaker as we recently learned that Entsorga has closed.

**SMC Green Team:** No update.

**Nominating Committee:** Please let the Nominating Committee (Vice Chair Schnackenberg and BEC Secretary 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 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:** No update.

**TOWN UPDATE:** A local restaurant was caught dumping grease in the sewer which subsequently made its way to the creek. The restaurant was made to clean out the creek and will likely sustain a fine from Maryland Department of the Environment.

There will be a Native Plant sale at Sunny Meadows on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 am -2 pm sponsored by the Monarch Alliance and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Living Wall – Bids for a “living wall” to be constructed in the parking lot where the Farmer’s Market is held came in pretty high. Commission Member Wetzel proposed getting sponsors to underwrite this endeavor. Chairperson Ladino suggested that some trees from the ACWA grant be planted in the area as well. Ideally, we’d like to have both trees and a living wall in the parking lot.

Commission Member Wetzel commented that a webinar, “Building a Resilient Canopy” will be held September 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm EDT.

Commission Member Pruitt thanked those who attended the community meeting related to the potential traffic light at Campus Drive and Maple Ave.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY October 11, 2022 – Regular meeting at 7:30 at Town Hall.**

*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.*

*“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, familial status, religion, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination you may file in person with, or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD)”.*