

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, September 14, 2021

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

ABSENT: all present

Guest: Janeen Solberg

PRESIDING: Chairperson Vesely called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Appalachian Trail Designated Community (ATDC): BEC Chairperson Vesely spoke recently with EDC Chair Terri Packard and confirmed that the EDC is willing to partner with the BEC on this initiative. We will need representatives from both BEC and EDC to sit on this committee and shepherd this process along.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation: The BEC is sad to say goodbye to Leah Grasso who has resigned her BEC position.

New applicant: The BEC reviewed the application and interviewed Janeen Solberg to fill Jenn Clements' recently vacated term (three-year term expiring 11/23). The commission voted unanimously to approve Janeen's application, and Council Liaison Hollingshead will present to Town Council for final approval.

Help Wanted: Chairperson Vesely submitted a "help wanted" ad to the town newsletter for a Farmer's Market Manager, preferably someone who is not also a vendor as it's difficult to juggle both roles. We are also advertising for additional Green Team members.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Waste Reduction – October 9th is the fall bulk cleanup and recycling event from 8-12. The Green Fest Committee helps to plan this event, but volunteers are needed! Apple Valley Waste will have two crusher trucks for trash as well as a roll-off for recycling. Although scaled down a bit from Green Fest, there are ample opportunities for recycling and donations, as well as a "Free" area!

Strategic Plan/Grants – Chairperson Vesely met with town manager Paul Mantello to review the BEC Strategic Plan. All are in agreement that the Strategic Plan should be more concise with the Strategic Plan committee fleshing out the details. Chairperson Vesely will fine-tune the document a bit and route to the BEC for review.

Trees – Trees and planting maps were approved by the Mayor and Council. The Public Land Plantings are scheduled for October 7th, and private property plantings the weekend of October 9 & 10. Volunteers will be needed to assist with tree distribution and private property planting for those residents who requested assistance.

Public Education/Outreach – Education and Outreach is at a bit of a standstill until we as a group have a greater comfort level with an indoor speaking event (due to rising Covid rates).

Green Team – Chairperson Vesely expressed interest in heading up this subcommittee after November of this year.

Monarch Butterfly Waystation – During a recent visit to the Monarch Butterfly Garden, we discovered that there is no milkweed growing there, so we'll need to have the scouts replant some. We may also need to install signs identifying milkweed and the other plants.

Farmers Market – Farmer's Market will be advertising for a new manager for the 2022 market season.

Green Spaces – Green Spaces committee has obtained maps of the town priorities (which will be ideal for tree plantings). The GIS software is in the purchasing process but not yet in hand.

Nominating Committee – Chairperson Vesely announced her intent to step down as BEC Chair in November. The Nominating Committee will need to recommend candidates for Chairperson by the November meeting. Additionally, the question of election frequency was raised. Is it necessary to hold an election for officers annually or less frequently?

New potential subcommittee: BEC is considering a new "Energy" subcommittee.

TOWN UPDATE:

Council Liaison Hollingshead shared highlights from the 9/13/21 Mayor and Council meeting. Most pertinent to the BEC is the potential for Maryland Rural Development Commission Circuit Rider Program, which is a service to research and write grants on behalf of the town.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commission Member Watson reported continued use of the EV charging station by a variety of vehicles.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY October 12, 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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