

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, October 12, 2021

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

**ABSENT:** Andy Watson, Janeen Solberg

Guest: Kristen Disbennett

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The September 2021 minutes were unanimously approved with correction.

**OLD BUSINESS** No Old Business was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**New applicant:** The BEC reviewed the application of and interviewed Kristen Disbennett to fill Leah Grasso's unexpired term ending November 2024. The commission voted unanimously to approve Kristen's application, and Council Liaison Hollingshead will present to Town Council for final approval.

**Lunch for Town Maintenance Crew:** The BEC voted unanimously in favor of providing lunch for the town maintenance crew in thanks for the extra work they do in support of the Farmers Market. This will be funded from Farmers Market proceeds.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The BEC discussed minor changes to the subcommittee nomenclature to better align with our goals and Strategic Plan. Changes will be reflected on the November 2021 minutes. All subcommittees are reminded that meeting minutes should be recorded during subcommittee meetings.

**Waste Reduction** – The fall bulk cleanup and recycling event was held Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 8-12. Overall, the event went very well, but was much slower than past bulk trash/recycling events.

**Strategic Plan/Grants** – Commission Member Wetzel edited the Strategic Plan. Other than a minor re-wording of Goal #2, the BEC is pleased with the final product and overall format of the document. BEC voted unanimously to accept the Strategic Plan with minor changes as discussed.

There is a **Keep Maryland Beautiful** grant that is due November 15<sup>th</sup>. Is there any interest from the BEC to submit an application for community beautification, greening, or other environmental initiatives?

**Trees** – The town's Tree Board enjoyed a very successful tree giveaway and planting event! The majority of the public land planting was accomplished on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, and residential tree delivery and planting (as requested) was done on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. There were a number of lessons learned for future tree events. The town needs to track tree distribution and planting in order for the trees to count toward MS4 permitting.

**Public Education/Outreach** – No report.

**Green Team** – No report.

**Monarch Butterfly Waystation** – BEC is interested in procuring some sign holders to post informational materials about the plants in the garden. The cost is less than \$4 each. Chairperson Vesely will coordinate with the scout troop to have the signage installed.

**Farmers Market** – The “regular” Farmers Market season wrapped up in early October, and is now operating with modified hours (Tuesdays, 3-6 pm) for the “extended” season which runs through November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Green Spaces** – The BEC continues to investigate the process for establishing a Community Garden. Neighboring towns of Hagerstown and Middletown have established Community Gardens, and we could reach out to them for information on how they established their gardens and run them year over year.

**Nominating Committee** - The Nominating Committee will contact individuals to assess interest in BEC board positions.

**Energy** – The EV station seems to be getting more usage from a variety of cars.

#### **TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead reported that Janeen Solberg was approved by the Mayor and Council as a BEC member.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Commission Member Ladino reported that the town has procured GIS and will be doing a tree inventory as well as general asset management. They hope to have information output before too long. Ladino also noticed that discarded masks were accumulating in the park and asked that BEC consider ways to discard them safely.

Vice Chairperson Schnackenberg thanked everyone who volunteered this past weekend whether at the tree giveaway event or bulk trash and recycling drop off!

Chairperson Vesely commented that she fills an entire (small) bag with trash on a daily basis while walking through the Crestview neighborhood. Also, a reminder that the BEC will be meeting back at the town hall annex starting in November.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY November 9, 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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