

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, November 8, 2022

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kim Pruitt, Andy Watson, Barbara Wetzel, Kathy Vesely

ABSENT: Kristen Disbennett, Amy Jones, Laura Schnackenberg, Janeen Solberg, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

PRESIDING: Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 2022 Minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved. There were no October Minutes as the meeting was canceled due to illness.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Garden: The CG will be a “Project Committee,” not a BEC Subcommittee as community members are involved, and will meet the Third Tuesday of each month. The CBT funding will be announced in December. A tour of the Hagerstown Community Garden has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 at 4 PM. All are welcome. Meet in Hagerstown at the CG, 513 S Potomac St.

Appalachian Trail Task Force: The application has been submitted, but a bit more criteria need to be met prior to approval. The BEC proposal to provide information/education about not leaving trash of any type on the trail was approved by the Task Force. This information is not due until June 2023.

Milkweed Plants Provided to Community Members During Tree Giveaway: Milkweed plants were provided to anyone picking up their tree at the Town Tree Giveaway. No receipt has been submitted to the Town for reimbursement to Mary Cottone to date for the MW plants.

NEW BUSINESS

BEC Election Results: As per an email vote: the following were approved for another term: Cassandra Ladino, Chairperson; Laura Schnackenberg, Vice Chairperson; Amy Jones, Secretary.

Budget Voting: Support for Town GIS consultant to support Tree Inventory. Town has chosen a consultant. BEC will wait to see if money is needed to support new consultant. No vote needed at this time.

January Town Newsletter Ideas: Possibly do an annual review of town trees, including number of new trees planted, number of community members who took advantage of Tree Giveaway, any information from the GIS Inventory, etc. Blurb needed by mid-December.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Solid Waste Reduction: The Fall bulk clean up and recycling event, held on October 8, 2022, was another huge success. It would be nice to get total tonnage from Conservit, etc. to know how much trash we kept out of landfill. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

Strategic Plan/Grants: We will contact the Nora Roberts Foundation to see if they have any available funds to support the Community Garden. Member Pruitt will look into applying for the KMB (Keep Maryland Beautiful)

grant, due November 15. Possible purchases: “sticks with picks” to make picking up trash easier, more trash and recycling bins to be placed around town.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening): Suggestion to work with the EDC and/or the Park Board about providing a new bench or two on Main Street and/or the Walking Trail. Maybe have a “Call for Artists” contest to decorate the benches. Possibly ask BHS Shop Class about building the benches. **Cassandra: I had down “April deadline – grant” but I don’t know what that was.**

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers: Entsorga is no longer operational, so no longer an option for a speaker.

SMC Green Team: Member Vesely will look into next town deadline.

Nominating Committee: No update. Elections held in October.

Community Garden: See above.

Energy: Our EV station is used regularly!

TOWN UPDATE:

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead was absent so Chair Ladino gave an update. Potomac Edison would like to install another EV station in town as ours is used often and the town could support another station. A new location is being discussed. **PE would also like to install solar panels at the water treatment plant.**

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Wetzel suggested the Town should institute a Tree Ordinance: Getting permission to cut down a tree on property; look at safety issues regarding a precarious tree; consult an arborist before doing major tree trimming to preserve the integrity of the tree.

I just noticed this from the August Minutes: Commission members Pruitt and Wetzel’s terms both expire in November 2022. Both are three-year terms. **Cassandra: This wasn’t discussed, but should probably be discussed at the Dec meeting, or an email vote sent out sooner.**

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM

**Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Vesely for Amy Jones, BEC Secretary**

***Next meeting: TUESDAY December 13, 2022 – 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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