

**Draft**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

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

**TUESDAY, November 9, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** Janeen Solberg, Kristen Disbennett

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Vesely called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Re-alignment of Subcommittees: The BEC agreed to the re-alignment of subcommittees, however questioned the need for a Community Garden subcommittee as this is intended to be more ad hoc in nature.

New BEC member Kristen Disbennett was approved at the last Mayor & Council meeting. Kristen will be completing Jennifer Clement's three-year term expiring November 2023.

Farmers Market Manager – There is a candidate interested in the Farmers Market Manager position for 2022. In the past the Farmers Market Manager has received a stipend of \$500 and the Social Media Manager \$250. The BEC voted unanimously to extend the same stipends for 2022. Kathy Vesely will be attending a county-wide Farmers Market Manager meeting in December.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Election of BEC Officers: BEC agreed to table the election of officers until the December meeting. As Kathy Vesely is stepping down as Chairperson, Commission Member Jones volunteered to prepare the agenda and run the December 2021 meeting.

BEC Member Terms: BEC members Kathy Vesely and Andy Watson's terms expire in November 2021. Council Liaison Hollingshead will request approval to reappoint both commissions (Vesely's for three years and Watson's for four years) at the next Mayor & Council meeting.

January Town Newsletter Topic – Commission member Ladino will provide a short recap of the Town Tree Giveaway for the January newsletter. This will need to be completed by mid-December at the latest.

Safe Routes to School: Commission Member Wetzel spoke with a program manager from the State Highway Administration about grants for sidewalk improvements in town. The State has grants available through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for sidewalks and bike lanes for Elementary and Middle Schools. Although this type of initiative would likely fall to the town's Public Safety Commission, Wetzel and Chairperson Vesely plan to meet with the Town Manager and Town Planner to assess the best way to advance the idea of sidewalk improvements in town.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Solid Waste Reduction** – No report.

**Strategic Plan/Grants** – Commission Member Wetzel will edit Goal #2 and send to Chairperson Vesely for review and submission to Town Manager Mantello.

The BEC is going to request that the circuit writer re-work last year's **Keep Maryland Beautiful** grant proposal for submission by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Beautification** - There is a Tree Board meeting coming up in near future.

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers** – We will begin outreach to schedule speakers for 2022.

**SMC Green Team** – No report.

**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 to year.

**Nominating Committee** - The Nominating Committee will be outreaching to potential candidates for BEC Officers.

**Community Garden** – Chairperson Vesely toured a large community garden in Frederick, MD and met the garden manager. Vesely will share his contact information with the Public Education/Outreach subcommittee for outreach to see if he would speak to the BEC about how to start and manage a community garden.

**Energy** – Commission member Watson reports that the EV station is still being used regularly including by an all-electric motorcycle. Watson also shared an interesting article about a drone outfitted with a thermal camera used to identify heat-seepage from buildings and homes in a town in Minnesota.

#### **TOWN UPDATE:**

Town Council Liaison Hollingshead shared highlights from the recent Mayor & Council meeting including potential residential development at Fletchers Grove, and Board of Education plans to install a well at Boonsboro High School to use for grounds maintenance.

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

Commission Member Ladino suggested that if the Public Education subcommittee can schedule the Frederick community garden manager soon enough to attend our January meeting, we should include that information in the town newsletter article due in mid-December.

Commission Member Wetzel shared an interesting article from the Herald Mail about “Project FeederWatch” (<https://feederwatch.org>) which involves counting the birds at your feeders and reporting your findings online. Data collection runs November 13, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM

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

**\*Next meeting: TUESDAY December 14, 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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