

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, December 14, 2021**

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Kristen Disbennett, Amy Jones, Cassandra Ladino, Kim Pruitt, Laura Schnackenberg, Janeen Solberg, Kathy Vesely, Andy Watson, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Barb Wetzel

PRESIDING: Acting Chairperson Jones called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 2021 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Election of BEC Officers: The slate of officers was presented by the Nominating Committee and elected by unanimous vote as follows:

- Chairperson: Cassandra Ladino
- Vice Chair: Laura Schnackenberg
- Secretary: Amy Jones

NEW BUSINESS

The BEC welcomed new member Kristen Disbennett!

April Town Newsletter: The BEC discussed topics for the April town newsletter including the Green Fest Swap and Recycling event (scheduled for May 14, 2022) as well as information on where things can be recycled outside of Green Fest and the annual bulk trash drop off event.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Solid Waste Reduction – No report.

Strategic Plan/Grants – The town is applying for Sustainable Communities Designation which would allow for additional grant opportunities. The designation and subsequent related grants do not have to apply to the entire town, but can apply to just a subset of the town allowing activities to be more focused. Once the Town submits the Sustainable Communities application, the Town is also eligible to apply for grants that require the Sustainable Communities designation.

The Keep Maryland Beautiful grant was submitted by the November 15, 2021 deadline.

Beautification – The Tree board meeting will be in January. Jeff Davidson renewed the annual Tree City USA application.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers – Commission member Vesely contacted the community garden manager, David Muns, at the Frederick News Post building in Frederick. He will be attending the January 11, 2022 BEC meeting to share best practices and for some Q&A. Another excellent speaker topic would be compost, especially in light of the interest in a community garden in town.

SMC Green Team – No report.

Green Spaces – Community Garden will be breaking off into its own ad-hoc subcommittee.

Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee will be inactive until September 2022.

Community Garden – Potential site discussion: Logistically a site would need road access and water access. Near the school campus would be ideal in terms of the opportunity for an “outdoor classroom” as well as the proximity to the senior housing, but unsure of any water access. Another suggestion is the area behind the Boy Scout building at the park. It is flat, sunny, and there is a water source nearby. There would also be the potential for rain barrels.

The Community Garden Subcommittee will communicate potential locations with the Town Manager to ensure said sites and necessary garden resources are available before pursuing further with the Town Council. We ideally would also like to have a few community members join this committee.

Energy – The EV station still being used with some consistency.

TOWN UPDATE:

- Cassandra Ladino and Jeff Davidson were recognized at the December 13 Mayor & Council meeting for their efforts organizing the recent tree giveaway event. Way to go, Cassandra and Jeff!!
- Kathy Vesely and Andy Watson were reappointed to the BEC for three- and four-year terms, respectively.
- The developer of Stoney Creek Farm presented updated plans. They will be eliminating events, adding some stormwater management, planting trees, and modernizing the septic system.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Commission member Vesely presented a bill from the EDC in the amount of \$175.00 for the Farmer’s Market “Love your Local” banner. The BEC unanimously approved payment from the Farmer’s Market budget.
- Vice Chair Schnackenberg reminded everyone of the Holiday Pop-Up Farmers Market to be held December 21st from 3-7 at the Community Center.
- Chairperson-elect Ladino asked all BEC members to start thinking of additional grant opportunities to ensure that the BEC has appropriate funding in the coming years.
- Commission member Pruitt commented how impressed she was with the towns of Brunswick and Emmitsburg for their ideas related to Sustainable Maryland Certified. Pruitt also noted that 26% of Maryland’s towns are Sustainable Maryland Certified. A potential newsletter or education topic would be to share the efforts Boonsboro has made toward becoming more sustainable.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary

***Next meeting: TUESDAY January 11, 2022 – 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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