

Town of Boonsboro
21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
Telephone: (301) 432-5141

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2024

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Andy Watson, Barbara Wetzel, Janeen Solberg, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollinshead

ABSENT: Cassandra Ladino

GUEST SPEAKER: Phil Wescott, Key City Compost

- Began in 2017; plans to expand to 30-acre composting site/facility
- 2,500 customers currently
- Pilot program in Frederick City using grant money
- Multiple schools involved - 14 in Frederick Co; 10 in Montgomery Co
- BPI certified bags can be used to collect scraps and be placed in community bin (such as EcoSafe or BioBag)

PRESIDING: Vice Chairperson Laura Schnackenberg called the regular meeting to order at 7:51 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

- BEC Annual Report 2023 – commission members are encouraged to review individually and provide comments by email.

NEW BUSINESS

- Budget request for FY25 total: \$9,750 (\$1,000 meetings; \$7,000 special projects; \$250 public education; \$1,500 Farmer's Market). Special projects include compost, Green Fest Swap & Recycle, Garden or other expenses, and glass crushing initiative.
- Topics for **July Town Newsletter:**
 - Promoting Farmer's Market
 - Community Garden update
 - Check out Monarch Waystation

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- Hold until May meeting

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Consider dog waste bags for downtown
- Signs printed for the compost drop-off and ready for installation
- Flyers available for Green Fest Swap & Recycle event
- Many volunteers willing to assist with Green Fest Swap & Recycle this year, including two Girl Scout troops
- Low Waste Living workshop at Williamsport Library on April 18th
- Glass crushing project continues to be established; considering site on Monroe Road

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- No new info regarding the grant for compost that was submitted.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Tree planting on Monday, April 15th, to refresh the trees that did not survive last planting
- 10 bur oak trees received from Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA) for tree planting
- Town needs to establish watering of new trees to improve likelihood of survival, especially in the park; may be best for request to come from Tree Board

- Arbor Day Spring Clean Up on April 21st; meet at Shafer Park

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- May 8, 2024 - Master Gardener/Composter Ed Higginbottom
- June 12, 2024 – Master Gardener Ann Aldrich to discuss planting for pollinators

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Orientation meeting for new/interested members – May 1st at 7pm at Town Hall
 - Mike Hunninghake, Director of Sustainable Maryland will attend
 - Greg Huntzberry will attend
 - 4/24 - EDC is having commission meeting; hoping to invite them

Nominating Committee:

- Not currently active.

Community Garden:

- Opening Day was April 6th – was a success and good turnout
 - Gate was fixed
 - Garden has been staked out
 - Still a lot of work that needs to be done, such as tilling and gathering supplies
 - Need Garden Manager, who may need to be paid; Potential college student interested
 - Plan provided on Town website
 - Kathy Vesely has seedlings available for donations to gardeners
 - Greenhouse open for use by gardeners

TOWN UPDATE:

- CPE came and had no problems
- Kim has been appointed as interim Town Manager and Drew is the assistant
- Terry Packard from EDC for Main Street application; on agenda for 4/29
- Spring Jubilee is April 27th; 1st section of Lakin Avenue to be blocked off for vendors
- Greg Huntzberry – will be working on replacing pavilion in Shafer Park
- “Register bike” event in July and August at Police Department
- J&J Trash Services to pick up on Wednesday beginning July 2024 for trash and recycling; will provide cans for trash and recycling
- Street sweeper is in the budget; need to buy brushes and fuel for the truck; must be able to store the truck 3x per year; beginning in July, once per month.
- Down to one full-time police officer
- No new information on post office

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- 7-8:30 on 4/25 - Zoom meeting or Bicycle Seminar on how to make community more bicycle friendly
- Farmer’s Market opening May 7th at 4pm: 26 vendors for market; 17 returning; 9 new; 5 food trucks; 5 musicians. Hope to invite Jessica Renner (original manager of the Farmer’s Market). Will have a “bring a tote/leave a tote” bin. Goal for zero-waste and as zero-plastic as possible.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

***Next meeting: Wednesday May 8, 2024 – 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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