

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2024

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Janeen Solberg, Town Council Liaison Ray Hanson (substituting for Terri Hollingshead)

ABSENT: Barbara Wetzel, Terri Hollingshead

Guests: Julie Weissenberger; Eric Kitchen

PRESIDING: Chairperson Cassandra Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Shafer Park Monarch Waystation
 - Local landscaper has made a lot of progress in weeding the invasive grass; should be finished by weekend of August 17th.
 - Purchase pending - common milkweed from Grasshopper Perennials to be planted in the Fall.
 - Commission member Solberg will request crushed glass from Town Maintenance to be delivered to refill the walkway.

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership
 - New member: Julie Weissenberger has been recommended by the BEC to the Mayor and Council for membership approval. Julie will replace previous commission member Pruitt to fulfill the remaining 2-year term expiring in 2026.
 - Currently 2 open commission positions, pending Weissenberger's approval.
- October Town Newsletter – Submissions due Sept 15th
 - Bulk Cleanup – October 12th, 8am-Noon
 - Monarch Waystation update

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- ChargePoint app shows recent usage of local EV stations
- Potomac Edison can provide comprehensive report, if needed

Solid Waste Reduction:

- KeyCity Compost pick up was 168lbs this week; no problems, complaints, or messes.
- Bulk Cleanup – October 12th, 8am-Noon; Shafer Park parking lot.
 - Trash available to Town residents only.
 - Recyclables and donations open to all.
- Planning another Low Waste Living workshop at Boonsboro Library on Sept. 25, at 5:30pm (Topic: “Conversation in Suburban Sustainability”).

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- BEC needs to schedule time to meet with the new Town Manager.

- Continuing to look for opportunities through Sustainable Maryland though most grants are not applicable to Washington County.
- Commission member Wetzel is looking into Nora Roberts grant for supporting purchase of a glass crusher.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Monarch Waystation is a priority for improving its appearance and maintaining official Monarch Waystation designation.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Presentations will resume in the Fall.
- Michael Niece – glass crushing operation in Winchester, VA.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Next meeting is September 4th at 5:30pm.

Nominating Committee:

- Proposal in September; voting in November.
- Commission member Wetzel voted in to serve on committee with member Commission member Schnackenberg.

Community Garden:

- A lot of corn being grown; does not seem to be an issue this year, however it may need to be discussed for next year if there are complaints.
- Considering sending a survey to plot renters at the end of the growing season/year.
- Chairperson Ladino will discuss a long-term mowing maintenance plan with Town Maintenance.

Farmers Market:

- Shed has been built and placed at Farmers Market.
- \$72 invoice for shelf; to be paid from BEC Special Project funds.
- Cancelled the Farmers Market on July 16th due to heat.
- Week of August 12th the Farmers Market recieved 474 customers.
- Nominated for Herald Mail “Best Of”.

TOWN UPDATE:

- New Police Chief (Dave Rizer), and new Sergeant (Robby Wittington), and two new onboarding officers.
- Post Office to open this week.
- Food Truck Festival on September 1st.
- No bid out for reservoir; received \$400,000 in funding; awaiting permit.
- Working on striping plan at Chase Six Blvd.
- McDonalds reached out for plot across from Weis.
- High’s development is behind schedule.
- Plans to start working on walking paths in Shafer Park were delayed due to weather, but expected to be completed by same date.
- Shafer Park Disk Golf grant was accepted and installation will be moving forward soon.
- Town of Boonsboro September 11th remembrance parade is planned. This will disrupt the regular scheduled BEC monthly meeting, BEC approved moving the meeting to Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30pm at Town Hall.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

***Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:30 at Town Annex (Alternate date due to regular meeting falling on September 11th).**

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.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, familial status, religion, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination you may file in person with, or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD)".