

**DRAFT**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2024**

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**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Janeen Solberg, Cassandra Ladino, Julie Weisenberger, Marilee Kerns

**ABSENT:** Barbara Wetzel, Spice Cromie, Terri Hollingshead

**Guests:** Rachel Souders

**PRESIDING:** Regular meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The November minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with corrections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- BEC subcommittee roster will be updated to include non-commission members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Membership
  - Currently 2 open seats on the BEC
- January Town newsletter
  - Kathy Vesley: Farmer's Market looking for vendors in Spring and accepting applications.
  - Cassandra Ladino: Community Garden applications available. Manager position open.
  - Barbara Wetzel: Recycling information.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Energy:**

- EV stations continue to be used.

**Solid Waste Reduction:**

- Transition from Key City Compost to Compost Crew has gone smoothly. Compost service in Town is still well utilized.
- Low Waste Living Workshop is scheduled for February 19th at 5:30pm at Boonsboro Library.
- Green Fest Swap & Recycling event is May 10, 2025.
- Commission members would like to schedule another tour of Winchester's glass crushing facility for Town staff.

**Strategic Plan/Grants:**

- Application for Glass Crusher was submitted to Nora Roberts Foundation by Barbara Wetzel. Total request for \$88,000 includes glass crusher, installation, electric upgrade, concrete pad, and shed. The town portion would be approximately \$7,000.

**Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):**

- Barb Wetzel spoke with Alex Reed (Washington County Watershed Specialist) regarding the end of Washington County's 3-year contract to manage the dense patch of tree plantings at the Boonsboro Library. 10 trees died and will be replaced. It is suggested that the County should add "no mow" signs.
- Monarch waystation - Grasshopper Perennials did not have any more milkweed as of 11/11/2024. Still pending walkway path weeding and additional crushed glass for path.

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:**

- Presenter for February is TBD.

**Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:**

- Next meeting to be held January 8th at 5:30pm, Town Hall.

**Nominating Committee:**

- Not Active

**Community Garden:**

- Community Garden web page on the Town website was updated with Garden Manager Position Description and 2025 Garden Application.
- Garden Management Team met twice and discussed the end of season plan. Identified a potential Garden Manager who has agreed to volunteer on the Garden Management Team for the remainder of this year's closeout activities.
- Closing date was November 18th. All gardeners must have cleaned out their plots by this date. Most gardeners complied; some were unable.
- A few responses were provided to the brief survey sent out for feedback on priorities for next year. No negative comments or complaints were received.
- Janeen Solberg: Soft opening year went well, with no noted equipment abuse.

**Appalachian Trail Committee:**

- JFK50 was a success with a record number of runners, 96% completed all 50.2 miles. There was a heavy ATC presence on the trail, as well as EMTs and other volunteers. A course record was set at 5 hours and 8 minutes.
- Bathrooms and spigots at Dahlgren Campground are closed for the season, as well as water spigots at Gathland, and Washington Monument.

**Farmers Market:**

- An email and survey will go out at the end of the year to vendors.
- Info in the newsletter for 2025 vendor applications.
- Considering reconfiguring the layout.

**TOWN UPDATE:**

- Walking Path will not be paved until Spring 2025.
- Disc golf ready to be installed.
- High's Convenience Store revisiting site plan.

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- National Road Heritage Foundation Museum opening this weekend. Initial hours Sat & Sun 10-4. This is also intended to be the town welcome center. Looking for additional volunteers to greet patrons.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Julie Weissenberger

**\*Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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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