

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, February 13, 2024

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Barbara Whetzel, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Andy Watson, Janeen Solberg

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- BEC Annual Report 2023 – postponed discussion to **March meeting**
- Suggested Topics for **April Town Newsletter**
 - Green Fest May 11
 - Town Compost Bins
 - Community Garden ribbon cutting
 - Monarch Watch - numbers are down 59%

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- Both car chargers are getting used but the one at town hall is getting more use. Suggested that Town should install signs like they did for the station at Town Hall.
- The Tesla model Y was the best-selling vehicle in the world for 2023 (selling 427,524 last year)
- The Tesla model 3 was 10th selling 226,049 last year

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Spoke to Mayor about street sweeping; hopeful to get it started in spring and to get funding to go through next year. Still in discussion with Williamsport, they want donation, we want contract and set price. Toured glass crushing facility in Winchester, VA. Observed a trail covered with crushed glass that people can walk on and strollers and dogs, however it was noted that this type of walking path cannot be laid on top of a hard surface base.
- 2/26/24 – Mayor and Council meeting will discuss glass crushing project and estimated cost for grant funding.
- Low waste workshop occurred on 1/31/24; approximately 30 people attended.
- Additional upcoming workshops: 3/20/24 – plastic workshop at Boonsboro Library, and 4/18/24 – workshop in Williamsport.
- Finishing up sign for compost bin, stating “Dos and Don’ts”

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- A small grant for climate reduction pollution through Maryland Department of Energy (MDE) was submitted for compost service charges for next year. MDE identified 200 projects and those submissions are planned to be delivered to the Environmental Protection Agency on March 1st.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Applied for MUCFC grant to replace dead trees from previous plantings.
- Discussing renewal of software licenses for the GIS software project continues.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- April 9, 2024 – Presentation by Emil from Key City Compost (Q&A)
- Trying to coordinate a Master Gardner present by May 2024 to discuss monarchs’ sharp decline.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- No March Green Team meeting
- Main focus is to expand members and involvement to include more of the community, such as local churches, businesses, and schools; then have orientation with the group in May.
- Interest in involvement received from two high school students.

Nominating Committee:

- Not currently active.

Community Garden:

- Fence Proposal selected and approved by the Mayor and Council.
- Water line extension/hydrant have been installed.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 4/6/24.
- Discussions started with Town regarding an account to be set up for funds.
- Need assistance for Opening Day. Hoping to secure participation of one or more Master Gardeners. Considering ideas and activities, such as a seed giveaway.
- Approximately 6 applications received thus far.
- Questions from an audience member in regard to the selection of a winning bid for fencing were addressed during the meeting.

TOWN UPDATE:

- 550 feet of water line placed at the community garden
- Replacing picnic tables in Shaffer Park that were vandalized
- Chair is Public Safety Commission stepping down; Assistant does not want to step up; will be advertised to fill the vacancy
- Pathfinder will have ribbon cutting on 2/22/24
- Crawfords under contract; Expected to be a new restaurant
- Post office will be moving on 2/19/24

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Farmers Market – Opening Day is May 7, 2024 (closes October 22, 2024). Have been working on sending invitations to vendors; 34 people have requested an application; have approached 9 food trucks; 2 musicians booked.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

***Next meeting: Wednesday March 13, 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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