

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, January 9, 2024

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

ABSENT: Barbara Wetzel

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- BEC Annual Report 2023 – postpone until February meeting
- April Town Newsletter – need potential articles

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- New EV station is live and has been used three times according to Charge Point.
- Pin location in PlugShare needs to be updated because it is inaccurately placed at the Shafer Park community center. The Town needs to submit the change request or may need to ask Potomac Edison.
- Committee member Watson posted a comment on PlugShare and shared a picture of the actual location of the charging station.

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Contact made with Michael Neese, Refuse and Recycle Director for the City of Winchester. Mayor Long, Assistant Mayor Nally, commission member Wetzel, commission member Vesely will tour the facility and glass crushing machine on January 26, 2024.
- Green Fest Swap and Recycle event is scheduled for May 11, 2024.
- Zero Waste Workshop to be held on January 17, 2024, from 5:30-7pm, at the Boonsboro Library, and is open to the public, which will include zero waste refreshments and swap items.
- Fall bulk clean-up scheduled for October 12, 2024.
- The Town Manager plans to follow up with Williamsport on getting regular street sweeping.
- The extension of Key City compost service pilot program did not make it into the Town Mayor and Council official meeting minutes. Pilot program was restarted in November 2023.
- A comprehensive plan for the Town is in process of being updated.

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- Commission member Vesely received an email from Mike Hunninghake, Director of Sustainable Maryland about a survey that was sent to multiple communities to gather ideas regarding greenhouse gas related needs. Vesely forwarded to the Town Manager to see if Boonsboro wants to submit anything. Commission member Solberg recommends grant funding for compost service.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Tree Board meeting scheduled for January 18, 2024.
- Town to purchase GIS software (date unknown).

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Multiple attempts made to contact Phil Wescott of Key City Compost for a return visit for Q&A about the new compost service; no response.
- Maybe find alternative, such as Melony Files (Master Gardner & composter)

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Met on the 3rd of January and will be adding a Zoom video conference option for meetings. Also, the meeting start time has changed to 5pm so Town Manager and Planner can attend.
- Members attended the Middletown Green Team meeting to see how their team is organized. Middletown is pursuing Green Schools and Bird City USA certification and is already Bee City USA certified.
- Interest in involvement received from a local high school student.

Nominating Committee:

- Not currently active.

Community Garden:

- Proposals received for fence; top two within \$600 of each other. The BEC proposed to move forward with whichever company can finish the project the fastest.
- Chairperson Ladino will check community garden email inbox to check for more applicants; have one currently.
- The Community Garden is scheduled to open April 6th.
- Chairperson Ladino will request that the Town create Facebook event to spread word of opening day and availability of applications.

TOWN UPDATE:

- Reappointed commission member Solberg for four years.
- Everything is in order to begin the Chase Six extension.
- King Road buildout is long-term over the next 15 to 20 years.
- Proposals are under review for the Cultural Trail feasibility study.
- Jenny Hawkins Smith can't serve on the election board this year, the Town is looking for two alternatives for the May 14th election.
- Received \$30,000 for façade improvement; hoping for \$50,000 next year,
- Community Garden opens April 6, 2024. Ribbon cutting ceremony is planned.
- Spring Jubilee scheduled for April 17, 2024.
- June 1, 2024 – All Trails Day at Gapland State Park.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett

***Next meeting: TUESDAY February 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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