

DRAFT

Town of Boonsboro

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, July 10, 2024

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Cassandra Ladino, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Barbara Wetzel, Janeen Solberg, Chris Adkins (Green Team) Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Kristen Disbennett

PRESIDING: Chairperson Cassandra Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Monarch Waystations
 - Commission member Solberg and Green Team member Adkins plan to evaluate conditions on July 18th.
 - A local landscaper has been sourced for regular maintenance. The commission approved the landscapers rate of \$35 per hour at a maximum of \$70 per month for servicing the garden.
- Final end of year (FY24) purchases with remaining funds included:
 - 3 terracycle bins for \$521
 - 2 carts (1 steel flat cart, 1 plastic bucket cart) for the community garden for \$380

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership
 - Commission member Watson has resigned
 - Currently 3 open commission positions
 - Commission member Wetzel will research if rules in the charter can be changed and allow members who do not live within town limits to become members. The Economic Development Council allows membership by those who have businesses in town, but do not live in Town.
 - Commission member Solberg will reach out to Greenfest participants.
 - The Town webpage needs to be updated to list 3 open membership positions.
- Current Fiscal Year Budget - \$7k for the Special Projects budget
- October Town Newsletter – Begin thinking about submissions

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- Past commission member Watson shared a spreadsheet of usage from 11/2020 to 06/2024, requested from Anthony Lewis at Potomac Edison.
- Commission member Solberg will take the lead on the Electric Vehicle (EV) report moving forward and download the plug share app.

Solid Waste Reduction:

- 3 terracycle bins were purchased.
- KeyCity Compost pick up is going strong, averaging 125 to 245lbs per week.
- Commission member Wetzel researched glass crusher prices - \$80 to 85k including transportation and installation.
- Commission member Wetzel submitted Nora Roberts Grant registration form.
- Commission member Wetzel would like to know who is responsible for the maintenance around the Shafer Park community center building. Old leaves pile up behind recycling bins for example and Commission member Wetzel cleaned them recently. Consider reminding Town Maintenance about Fall leaves after the season this year.

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- Commission member Wetzel checked Washington County grants for glass, none seemed appropriate.
- BEC needs to schedule time to met with the new Town Manager.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Commission members noticed watering of planted Trees.
- Phase 4 of the walking path in Shafer Park has been bid and should be finished around October 1, 2024.
- A pear tree in the library parking lot needs proper pruning, the commission is not sure if the Town or Library is responsible for maintenance given the specific location of the tree.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Presentations will resume in the Fall.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Met July 10th 2024 – Mayor Long and council member Erik Kitchen were in attendance.

Nominating Committee:

- Not currently active.

Community Garden:

- No issues or updates.

Farmers Market:

- 265 people attended on a 95 degree day.
- Commission member Vesely purchased a surface temperature gun to monitor the parking lot surface temperature. Surface temperatures reached 152 degree and there is a concern about continuing to allow visitors to bring dogs. Commission member Vesely currently makes it a habit to write the daily surface temperature on the announcement board.
 - Commission Liaison Hollingshead suggested proposing a “No Dogs Allowed” sign on days when the surface temperature becomes unsafe for animals.

TOWN UPDATE:

- Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission (BMUC) Chairman, Stu Mullendore resigned. A plaque was given for his service.
- The new Town Manager was officially announced.
- Sergeant Dave Rizer was appointed as Chief of Police.
- Lot at Shafer Park Community Center was noted as needing to be sealed and restriped.

- Street Sweeper report noted the Street Sweeper collected 12 loads of debris. 1 load equals approximately 1 ton. 1000 gallons of water was used in total.
- MTAC security support provided on the weekends is being discontinued. The Boonsboro Police is hiring additional local staff.
- The Economic Development Council is purchasing 4 additional benches for main street.
- Food Truck Festival will have 24 food vendors.
- A local group is hosting a yard sale in Shafer Park to raise funds for their theatre group.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Suggestion to encourage Town to make Facebook posts about residents who are demonstrating “green” living techniques.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Cassandra Ladino**

***Next meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 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.