

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2024

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

ABSENT: None

GUEST SPEAKER: Ann Aldrich, Master Gardener

PRESIDING: Chairperson Cassandra Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:56 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Community Garden grant funding, approximately \$600 remaining.
- BEC Special Budget Funds, approximately \$5,000 remaining – request to use for Green Fest items that are difficult to recycle (approximately \$500) and could also be used at the Farmers Market, Community Garden (tools, carts, or fall planting for perimeter), or reestablishing the monarch waystation.
 - Suggested to use local businesses for planting in monarch waystation (Grasshopper Perennials and Good Gracious Gardens).
- July Town Newsletter. Submitted articles include the following:
 - Community Garden
 - Farmers Market
 - Thanking guest speakers and inviting community members to meetings

NEW BUSINESS

- None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- Both Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations are being used regularly.

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Speaking engagement with Williamsport Lion's Club to discuss Green Fest Swap & Recycle Event.
- Discussing TerraCycle boxes; company continues to grow their recycling resources and are transparent.
- Need to confirm Fall clean-up; likely on October 8, 2024, from 8am to Noon.
- Apple Valley should be picking up old bins on June 25th. J&J will only provide a recycling bin, not a trash can, to be delivered between June 23rd and June 28th. First pickup to be on July 3rd.
- Street sweeper begins next Monday, June 17th, and every third Monday of the month going forward.
- Jim King crushed 3,600 glass bottles (1 ton) during Green Fest.
- Town has crushed glass meant to use for walkways; may use for a paving project, in monarch garden pathways, or in community garden.

- Green Fest was a successful event – thank you for all the volunteers and community participation.

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- No new information.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Need to address the Monarch Waystation in Shafer park; does not appear milkweed survived, and it is inundated with weeds.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Considering speakers for the fall:
 - Mike Neese to discuss uses of crushed glass.
- Pollinator Palooza in Fall at Ag Center, Sept 28th, 10am to 2pm.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Next meeting – July 3rd, time TBD.

Nominating Committee:

- Not currently active.

Community Garden:

- Members are growing a variety of vegetables and pollinator plants; article coming out in July newsletter.

Farmers Market:

- Off to resounding start this season.
- June 11th had close to 500 customers, 21 vendors, live music, and a food truck.
- Expecting to receive the shed that was purchased from Myers Barns in a couple weeks.

TOWN UPDATE:

- New Town Manager – starts July 17th – Rachel Souders; previously Director of Grant Management of Washington County.
- Currently interviewing candidates for Police Chief.
- Baby changing stations being added to the park bathrooms.
- Pickleball court placement is being discussed.
- Food Truck Festival coming up.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Wagon Train – This was the first time that the event went through main street in Boonsboro and turned around at the circle. The new strategy was well-received by the community.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

*Next meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 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.