

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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024**

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**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Chairperson Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Barbara Wetzel, Janeen Solberg, Town Council Liaisons – Eric Kitchen and Assistant Mayor Tony Nally (substituting for Terri Hollingshead)

**ABSENT:** Andy Watson

**GUESTS:** Town Manager, Jared Schumacher

**PRESIDING:** Chairperson Ladino called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- BEC Annual Report 2023 – commission members will review and provide comments by email.
- Topics for **April Town Newsletter**
  - Commission member Solberg submitted an article on Green Fest Swap and Recycle, May 11 – new items to be collected; emphasize free trees; and pollinator plants that will be available
  - Commission member Vesely submitted a notice of Green Team Orientation Meeting
  - Chairperson Ladino submitted an article on Community Garden ribbon cutting ceremony, April 6th

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Energy:**

- Both car chargers are getting used.

**Solid Waste Reduction:**

- Updated Green Fest Swap and Recycle flyer with new recyclable items (phone cases, Rx bottles, razors; not taking paint).
- 225 trees to be given away at Green Fest
- March 20<sup>th</sup> - Low Waste workshop at Boonsboro Library at 5:30; Topic: plastic-free DIYs
- Williamsport Library has requested a Low Waste workshop; being held on April 18th
- Glass crushing – Commission members Wetzel, Vesely, and Solberg made presentation to Mayor & Council in February – Mayor & Council are interested in the idea and would like to see a plan at the April Mayor & Council meeting
- Apple Valley continues to be non-responsive about recycling facility and services. Commission member Solberg contacted J&J Hauler, the new recycling pickup service in Keedysville; collects and takes recycling to Apple Valley processing plant.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> - still pending.

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

- Park Board wants to ensure that the new entrance to Shafer Park does not disrupt the Monarch Waystation; requested butterfly bushes to be removed from the planting plan and swapped with cone flowers.
- EDC wants to start the beautification project at circle as the first phase. Town requested that the EDC get an engineer to verify design because it is located on a state highway. Future tree plantings need maintenance/action plan for the

watering. Many current grants now offer maintenance, but previous grants awarded to the Town did not offer maintenance.

- Tree Board received MUCFC award of \$1,000. The grant funding will be used to replace approximately 30 trees from previous plantings (2021 and 2022) that did not survive.

#### **Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:**

- April 10, 2024 – Presentation from Key City Compost (Q&A) by Phil Westcott
- June 12, 2024 – possible presenter for composting

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

- Orientation meeting for new/interested members – May 1st at 7pm at Town Hall
  - Mike Hunninghake, Director of Sustainable Maryland will attend
- Follow up with middle school science/wetlands curriculum
- Next re-certification is 2026

#### **Nominating Committee:**

- Not currently active.

#### **Community Garden:**

- Opening day April 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon
- Ceremony with activities, kids' activities, seed giveaways, refreshments
- 7 families for first year
- Can continue to accommodate additional community members if applications continue to be received
- Accepting payments at Town Hall. Total collected fees from applicants is a small sum and easily managed.
- Still in need of garden manager (possibly student from FAA or Horticulture Program for either a small stipend or service hours)

#### **TOWN UPDATE:**

- Dewatering press almost finished – ready for testing in April
- Chase Six campus drive alignment – plans currently with State Highway Admin.
- Fletchers Grove has temporary LP (propane) tank – going to be moved to permanent location
- Plans for reservoir submitted to MDE; needs more funding
- No change to property tax rate
- MD Circuit Writer - agreement continues with the grant writer for \$1k per month
- Town Planner presented GIS budget – will start FY2024, but be part of FY2025 (7/1/24)
- Battlefield Estates – now proposing 48 single story age-restricted cottages (55 and over) with community center; expected to break ground this summer

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Isaac Whitmore has stepped down from Park Board – need to work on new member to fill vacancy
- Discussion of enterprise fund for Farmer's Market; would need to forecast revenue for following fiscal year; would need to collect up to end of June, then again beginning July 1.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Kristen Disbennett**

**\*Next meeting: Wednesday April 10, 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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