

**DRAFT**

**Town of Boonsboro**

21 North Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Telephone: (301) 432-5141

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024**

---

**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Barbara Wetzel, Janeen Solberg, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollinshead

**ABSENT:** Cassandra Ladino, Andy Watson

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Ed Higginbottom, Master Composter

**PRESIDING:** Vice Chairperson Laura Schnackenberg called the regular meeting to order at 7:51 PM.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Topics for **July Town Newsletter** (due mid-June):
  - Promoting Farmer's Market + plastic-free July
  - Community Garden update
  - Check out Monarch Waystation
  - Thanking presenters; reminder meetings are open to the public and new date (Kristen)
  - What to do with old trash cans?

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Energy:**

- Tax credit for electric purchase (resource: Rewiring America.org)

**Solid Waste Reduction:**

- Green Fest Committee met recently; everything is in order for event on 5/11 at 9am
- Setting up/Sorting clothing from 2-6pm at Pavilion
- Compost drop-off still going strong and being used; pick up is Wed

**Strategic Plan/Grants:**

- Working on glass crusher grant; glass crusher is in the plans for the Town

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

- No new information

**Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:**

- June 12, 2024 – Master Gardener Ann Aldrich to discuss planting for pollinators
- Considering speakers for the fall
  - Mike Neese to discuss uses of crushed glass

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

- Orientation meeting held on May 1st at 7pm at Town Hall
  - Mike Hunninghake, Director of Sustainable Maryland presented
  - Town officials attended

- BHS Environmental Club students attended
- Master Gardener attended

**Nominating Committee:**

- Not currently active

**Community Garden:**

- Boonsboro will be using biproduct from Winchester glass crushing operation to utilize for a path to the community garden
- Considering signage to explain use of crushed glass for walkway
- Weed cloth laid down
- Still needs tilled

**Farmer's Market:**

- NEW!

**TOWN UPDATE:**

- Wooden flag plaque presented to Police Department
- National Road Heritage Museum requested funds for repairs
- Town elections next Tuesday
- Wagon Train, Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, arriving around Noon

**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Hagerstown raising water/sewer rates 14% this year, then 13% each year for the next 3 years
- Study – Where is the most plastic coming from? 100,000 volunteers found 56 companies contributed to half of the plastic waste; Coke was the number one contributor
- Plastic expected to account for half of the oil demand by mid-century
- Low-waste workshop in Williamsport; less participation than Boonsboro, but still beneficial and productive
- All Town Councilman were present at Farmer's Market opening day
- Farmer's Market opening day – 543 visitors; 27 vendors; some vendors sold out due to high demand
- Approval for shed for Farmer's Market; could take 6-8 weeks; provided by Myer's Barn Shop; will match community garden shed
- Need to have street sweeper sweep parking lot of Farmer's Market; near police department
- Farmer's Market now to be listed as a subcommittee
- Received application for Green Team from Chris Atkins, Master Gardener

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by  
Kristen Disbennett**

**\*Next meeting: Wednesday June 12, 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.***

***"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, familial status, religion, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination you may file in person with, or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD)".***