

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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, November 13, 2024**

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**PRESENT:** *Commission Members:* Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Janeen Solberg, Barbara Wetzel, Spice Cromie, Terri Hollingshead

**ABSENT:** Cassandra Ladino, Julie Weissenberger

**Guests:** Susie Wycoski

**Guest Speaker:** None

**PRESIDING:** Regular meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Changes to October minutes:

Beautification: remove “needs” after Monarch Waystation.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers: Michael Niece change to Neese

After amendments, the October minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None discussed

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Membership
  - New member: Spice Cromie was recommended by the BEC to the Mayor and Council for membership approval on 10/14/2024. Position has been approved.
  - Currently 2 open seats
  - Julie Weissenberger has volunteered to be Secretary, beginning December 2024.
  - Subcommittee Rosters Updated
    - Green Team to be added: Chris Adkins
    - Community Garden to be added: Susie Wycoski, Julie Weissenberger
    - Energy: Janeen Solberg asked to be removed. Spice Cromie expressed interest in learning more about this position.
- EDC Mixer November 14
  - Attending: Cassandra Ladino and Barb Wetzel
  - Per Cassandra Email: Please let me know if you have suggestions for focus topics or priorities for me to present at the mixer on Thursday night. I plan to highlight composting, community garden, and monarch waystation.
- January Town newsletter
  - Barb Wetzel submitted an idea for flyers in water bills and a social media posting on what is acceptable and what is rejected for recycling.
  - Janeen Solberg: advertising Zero-Waste Living Library Workshop, Sustainable Maryland, Farmer’s Market and Community Garden.
  - Kathy Vesley: Farmer’s Market looking for vendors in Spring and accepting applications. Also SMC blurb for newsletter.

- Cassandra Ladino: possibly submitting a request for a community garden manager, though one candidate has tentatively accepted position.
- Janeen Solberg: inclusion of composting information/numbers.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Energy:**

- EV stations continue to be used.

#### **Solid Waste Reduction:**

- Composting company Key City Compost has merged with Compost Crew out of Rockville, MD.
  - July 2023-November 2024 averaged 600 lbs. of compost collected per month.
  - Equivalent to 58 seedlings planted, 400 gallons of gasoline offset, and 8,838 miles driven.
  - From inception, 4.5 tons have been diverted from the landfill.
- Low Waste Living Workshop November 30 at 5:30 at Boonsboro Library
- GreenFest is May 10, 2025

#### **Strategic Plan/Grants:**

- Grant was not submitted for Sustainable Maryland giving four \$20,000 grants to certified municipalities, due to not enough information. May or may not submit in future.
- Application for Glass Crusher to be submitted to Nora Roberts on Friday, November 15 by Barb Wetzel. Total estimated request: \$95-\$100,000.
- Barb Wetzel and Kathy Vesely visited Keedysville glass crushing plant with Town Mayor and Clerk. Presented to Town Council to inquire if their Green Team would be interested in partnering.
- Barb Wetzel spoke with Theresa Pangle, who is interested in future information.

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

- Cassandra Ladino: Tree Board met and conducted tree maintenance including removing stakes and adding tube guards around base of trees planted at the library.
- Monarch waystation - Grasshopper Perennials did not have any more milkweed as of 11/11/2024. Still pending walkway path weeding and additional crushed glass for path.

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

- Not working on speaker until after new year
- Barb Wetzel suggested speaker Patrick Kelly, Permacultrist, from South County.

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

- Next meeting to be held January 8th at 5:30pm, Town Hall.
- Helped with Cemetery clean-up behind Trinity Lutheran Church.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

- Nothing to note.

#### **Community Garden:**

- Garden Management Team met twice and discussed the end of season plan. Identified a potential Garden Manager who has agreed to volunteer on the Garden Management Team for the remainder of this year's closeout activities.
- Closing date is November 18th. All gardeners must have cleaned out their plots by this date.
- Email sent to gardeners about the closing date and included a brief survey for feedback on priorities for next year.
- Putting together a composting plan, adding composting bins.
- Janeen Solberg: Soft opening year went well, with no noted equipment abuse.
- Identified need for more compost materials without additional cost.

### **Appalachian Trail Committee:**

- Manager at Gifts Inn Boonsboro suggested fundraiser from town to town to raise funds for Damascus, Virginia, that was hit hard by hurricane; potentially a spaghetti dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church. This has been delayed until early 2025.
- Potential Meet & Greet with Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Ridge Runners to educate public.
- Connector trail stalled to 1 out of 2 landowners unwilling to provide easement.
- Fifteen acres burn on AT just north of Pogo Campsite. Being monitored by MDNR.

### **Farmers Market:**

- Kathy gave update to Town Council.
- 8,523 visitors.
- Averaged 20 vendors per week, with waitlist to join.
- Second-place winner in Herald Mail Best-Of Competition.
- Forty-six raffle gifts for customers who completed stamp cards.

### **TOWN UPDATE:**

- Auditor confirmed full compliance.
- High's Convenience Store still in pipeline. No carwash but will have satellite diesel pumps and 10 regular fueling bays.
- Parks are closed and winterized.
- Greg has laid out disc golf plots.
- Flushable wipes have been discovered in sewer system, and public has been notified not to use.
- New walking trail on Huntsberry at Antietam.
- Rachel is not currently taking new grants, but may make an exception for the baby swing which was broken in the park, after a child was trapped. New swing to be accessible for all bodies.
- Zoning Violations:
  - 121 South Main Street: Dumpster permit not obtained for renovation of 4 apartments.
  - 23 South Main Street (Mini Mart): exhaust fans not permitted. Blowing air and grease into neighbor's home.
  - 50 St. Paul Street: Garage installed without permit.

### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Girl's Night Out - November 21 at 5:00 PM
- JFK50 Race - November 23 at 6:30 AM

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Spice Cromie**

**\*Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 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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