

DRAFT

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, October 9, 2024

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Cassandra Ladino, Kristen Disbennett, Laura Schnackenberg, Kathy Vesely, Julie Weissenberger, Janeen Solberg, Barbara Wetzal, Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: None

Guests: Rachel Souders (Town Manager); Spice Cromie; Gabrielle Phillips

Guest Speaker: Michael Neese, Refuse and Recycle Director for the City of Winchester. Discussed glass crushing operations at the Winchester facility, different types of crushed glass, its various uses, and benefits of having glass crusher for a municipality.

PRESIDING: Regular meeting to order at 7:49 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- October Town newsletter
 - bulk clean up, Oct 12th - submitted.
 - Monarch Waystation - buzzing with activity - submitted.
 - Green Team meeting - proper way to enter and exit roundabout - not submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership
 - New member: Spice Cromie will be recommended by the BEC to the Mayor and Council for membership approval on 10/14/2024. The position filled expires in November 2025.
 - Next month - 2 open seats
 - Secretary Disbennett stepping down
 - Office positions are open to any who are interested. Interest needs to be submitted before the November BEC monthly meeting. The Mayor and Council does not need to approve positions.
 - Commission memberships that need to be submitted to the Mayor and Council for renewal.
 - Vesely (3 year term)
 - Schnackenberg (4 year term)
 - Ladino (4 year term)
 - Subcommittee rosters needs to be updated. BEC members should review and submit changes.
- January Town newsletter

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- EV stations continue to be used.

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Bulk Cleanup – October 12th, 8am-Noon; Shafer Park parking lot:
 - Trash available to Town residents only.
 - Recyclables and donations open to all.
 - Volunteers needed (7:30am-Noon); Greet individuals and determine proper vendor.
 - Martinsburg Restore will be present collecting items.
- Low Waste Living workshop on November 20, 2024, at 5:30, at the Boonsboro Library.
- Compost drop-off still going strong; no issues; picked up each Wednesday.

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- Sustainable Maryland giving four \$20,000 grants to certified municipalities, deadline 11/9; potentially to be used on glass crusher. Will request assistance from Town Grant Writer.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Monarch Waystation walking path needs to be weeded and crushed glass laid.
- Purchase of common milkweed is pending. Previous milkweed planted was the swamp milkweed variety, but plantings do not seem to be surviving.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Michael Neese, Recycling Manager for City of Winchester – glass crushing operation in Winchester, VA; presented October meeting.
- Commission members Vesely and Wetzal did Pollinator Palooza on 9/28; well attended and lots of kids; BEC presented Leave No Trace info, as well as “how long to decompose” activity for kids, with examples of how long different materials take to decompose in a landfill.
- No presenters until January.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Next meeting to be held November 6th at 5:30pm

Nominating Committee:

- Positions expiring will need to be reconfirmed or voted on at November BEC meeting. Email Laura Schnackenberg if interested in position(s).

Community Garden:

- Closes November 15th
- Garden management team is planning end of year clean up.
- Priority on finding and selecting a Garden Manager. Suggestion to create a flyer to pass out at Farmer’s Market.

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.

Farmers Market:

- Two weeks left; last week is October 22nd and will hold raffle that date with frequent buyer’s cards; will be multiple winners based on number of donations from Town businesses.

TOWN UPDATE:

- Trinity will be having lasagna dinner 11/1 (Mar-Lu Ridge fundraiser) and Boonsboro Fire Company will be having a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on 11/2.
- No other new updates since the Mayor and Council monthly meeting happens to fall after the BEC monthly meeting this month, October.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

*Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 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.

“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)”.