

DRAFT

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, September 10, 2024

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

ABSENT: Janeen Solberg, Barbara Wetzel

Guests: Spice Cromie

PRESIDING: Regular meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership
 - New member: Spice Cromie has been recommended by the BEC to the Mayor and Council for membership approval. Spice to fill Amy Jones' position which expires in November 2026.
 - Currently 1 open commission position.
- October Town Newsletter – Submissions due Sept 20th
 - Bulk Clean-Up and Recycling – October 12th, 8am-Noon
 - Monarch Waystation update
 - Tentative: Proper way to enter/exit a roundabout by Green Team

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Energy:

- None

Solid Waste Reduction:

- Bulk Clean-Up and Recycling – October 12th, 8am-Noon; Shafer Park parking lot:
 - Trash available to Town residents only
 - Recyclables and donations open to all
 - Volunteers needed

Strategic Plan/Grants:

- BEC needs to schedule time to meet with the new Town Manager.
- Continuing to look for opportunities through Sustainable Maryland though most grants are not applicable to Washington County.
- Commission member Wetzel is looking into Nora Roberts grant for supporting purchase of a glass crusher.

Beautification (Trees/Green Spaces/Gardening):

- Monarch Waystation needs walking path weeded and crushed glass laid; will be maintained by local landscaper.
- New milkweed to be purchased and planted in October.

Public Education/Outreach/Speakers:

- Michael Neese, Refuse and Recycle Director for the City of Winchester – glass crushing operation in Winchester, VA; agreed to speak at October or November meeting.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) Green Team:

- Meeting held September 4th at 5:30pm:
 - Majority of meeting was focused on discussing Sustainable Boonsboro website and need for updates.
 - Commission member Vesely interviewed by local DC news station – used 30 second clip about glass crusher.

Nominating Committee:

- Position terms are also expiring for many members and will need to be reconfirmed in November.

Community Garden:

- Need to identify a local mowing/landscaping company to provide service within fenced area; Town has ended mowing assistance.
- Considering creative ways to reduce area that requires mowing/trimming.
- Hoping for more community involvement, potentially high school students for SSL hours and/or Boy Scouts.
- If mowing is done by volunteers, then an appropriately sized mower will need to be purchased.
- Need to reconvene the Garden Management Committee and address outstanding items such as identifying a Garden Manager and begin planning for next year.
- End of growing season is November 15th.

Farmers Market:

- 392 people attended last week; 24 vendors participated.
- Doing great!

TOWN UPDATE:

- National Road Museum reported March 2025 will be re-opening.
- Ashley McCuster running for Board of Education.
- Basketball courts will be overlaid.
- Six benches will be placed around town.
- Shoutout to all the volunteers in Town Commissions by Town Manager.
- Rescue company will be expanding.
- A Chicken inspection occurred recently in Town.
- Pre-bid meeting for reservoir held.

Appalachian Trail Committee Update:

- Designation acquired, but not much since.
- Far Out app would give more traffic from hikers, but Town has not been added yet.
- No updates on Cultural Trail.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by
Kristen Disbennett**

***Next meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 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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