

Draft

Town of Boonsboro

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, March 10, 2020**

PRESENT: *Commission Members:* Chairperson Kathy Vesely, Alison Preston, Leah Grasso, Laura Schnackenberg, Amy Jones, Barbara Wetzel, Town Council Liaison Terri Hollingshead

ABSENT: Anthony Dowell, Jessica Renner, Scott McIlwee

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The February minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Budget: The BEC reviewed and discussed each proposed FY2021 budget line item with an eye toward the strategic plan. The BEC voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY2021 budget at \$9000.00, consistent with FY2020.

Commission member Wetzel introduced a draft Letter of Support to be sent to our state delegates, senator, and committee chairs regarding proposed electricity aggregation legislation (SB315 and HB561) known as Community Choice Energy (CCE) should the proposed legislation move forward. The BEC voted unanimously in support of the letter after Wetzel consults with Boonsboro's Town Manager to assess the best process for sending letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Green Fest – Need BEC members to volunteer at the BEC table at Green Fest on May 9, 2020. [Update: Green Fest 2020 has been cancelled.]

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Waste Reduction – Chairperson Vesely would like to include a short article in the town newsletter in April and is open to suggestion for topics. We will also advertise Entsorga's Emily Dyson's talk scheduled for the April 14th BEC meeting [Update: April 14th BEC meeting has been cancelled and our speaker will be rescheduled for a later date.]

Strategic Plan/Grants

Grants: Committee member Preston is working with Town Manager Mantello and Greg Huntsberry on a "Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns" (G3) grant. This is a conceptual grant through the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the purpose of analyzing the storm water management system in Boonsboro. The town could apply for grants in subsequent years to fund construction projects related to the storm water system.

The "Keep Maryland Beautiful" grant should be announced by March 20, 2020.

Strategic Plan: The BEC discussed ways to kick off our plastic straw education initiative which is part of our Strategic Plan. The committee discussed various educational opportunities including: a display at the BEC's table at Green Fest detailing plastic straw alternatives; donating books on the topic to the town and/or school libraries; presenting plastic straw challenge at the next EDC meeting. All of these initiatives would also apply to the town's Sustainable Maryland Certified designation.

Trees – No report, but a reminder that the town's Arbor Day Celebration will be on April 26, 2020. A tree care seminar will also be on that day at 6pm.

Public Education/Outreach – Emily Dyson (Entsorga) will be speaking at the April BEC meeting. [Update: April 14th BEC meeting has been cancelled.]

Green Team/Monarch Butterfly – Chairperson Vesely has oversight for the monarch butterfly waystation at Pleasant Valley Community Park and could use some assistance with garden maintenance. Committee member Wetzel suggested that we pitch in as able and assist with the upkeep.

Farmer's Market – There were eight vendors in attendance, including four potential new vendors, at the February 27th Farmer's Market meeting. The market is scheduled to open for the year on May 5th.

The BEC unanimously approved Chairperson Vesely's request for \$70 to attend the state Farmer's Market workshop.

Community Green Spaces – Committee members Wetzel and Grasso will be assessing the town's green spaces around town for potential projects.

TOWN UPDATE:

Town Liaison Hollingshead provided a number of town updates, most notably that the town is actively recruiting for a new Town Planner as Ethan Strickler has resigned.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice Chairperson Schnackenberg reminded committee members that the Shafer Park stream clean up and Arbor Day celebration will be held April 26th from 1-4 PM. The annual Fishing Derby will be held May 2nd at 10:30 AM, and there will also be a dedication of the pond during the derby.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by
Amy Jones, BEC Secretary**

*Next meeting: **TUESDAY MAY 12, 2020** – Boonsboro Town Hall. Regular meeting at 7:00.

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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