

# Howard County Solar Task Force Meeting – 6/30/2020

## Minutes and Action Items

### Attendees

Members: Amber Butler; Amy Gowan; Cathy Hudson; Corey Ramsden; Dani Phillips; Franny Yuhas; James Zoller; John Dove; Joy Levy; Keith Ohlinger; Kevin Lucas

Guests: Kim Armstrong (Solar United Neighbors); Leah Miller; Matt Hoover; Patrick Boddicker; Stefano Ratti

### Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 6/23/2020 were approved.

### Presentations

There were no formal presentations at this meeting.

### Discussion

The Task Force continued discussions on recommendations/answers to questions 7-8 of those originally posed to the Task Force. On Question 7 concerning potential incentives for commercial solar installations, members discussed property tax exemptions. Members differentiated between real property tax and personal property tax and decided to recommend a personal property tax exemption on non-ag-pres land.

On Question 8 concerning zoning regulations, the group referenced the matrix of definitions that had been created in previous meetings and changed one part of the matrix to disallow utility scale installations on ag-pres land.

After discussing the final two questions, the other 6 responses were revisited. On Question 5, members discussed not requiring a conditional use permit if the energy generated was solely used by the owner of the farm. On Question 6 regarding pollinator (and other agricultural practices) incentives, members discussed the specific language of requiring vs considering. Members decided to use the word requiring but added an additional option for other suitable proposals.

Once all comments were accounted for, the process for finalizing the answers was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

### Action Items

- Dani Phillips to send out all near-final documentation for review.
- All Task Force members to review near-final documents and provide comments/approval.