



---

HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY  
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0700

[www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov) FAX 410-313-3390 TDD 410-313-2323

---

**HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD (APB)  
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (APAB)**

**June 28, 2021**

**Attendance:**

Board Members: Mickey Day (Chair)

Savannah Kaiss

Cathy Hudson

Ann Jones (Vice Chair)

Abby Gibbon

Staff:

James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)

Morenike Oyenusi, Senior Assistant County Solicitor

Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division

Matthew Hoover, Administrative Aide, (OCS)

Guest:

Robert Vogel

Steve Nelson

Abe Bennett

Theodore Mariani

Kathy Johnson

Leslie Bauer

Bruce Wilson

**Action Items**

**1) Minutes from the meeting of March 22, 2021**

No additions or corrections. Ms. Jones motioned for approval and it was seconded by Ms. Kaiss. All board members in attendance approved the minutes.

**2) Request for Advisory Comments, **Commercial Solar Facility (CSF)**, Cahill Luigard Living Trust property, HO-97-04-PPCL(B), 37 +/- acres (**APB**) ([Staff Report](#))**

Ms. Burgess reviewed the staff report with the Board and the contents included with it. This was an easement that came into the program on November 10, 1997 as the Cooksville Limited Partnership. She advised the board of a correction to the Staff Report where it should have mentioned Council Bill 17-2021 and not Council Bill 59-2016 in the background portion of the report. The change does not impact the Staff Report provided.

Ms. Burgess provided highlights from the report detailing the two sites, the soils, the acreage and the size of each option. They are planning on providing a pollinator friendly habitat. Per the new regulations the applicant provided two options for the request review with two site locations. Ms. Burgess reviewed the APB CSF policy with the APB and it was also included in the Staff Report. The staff analysis is that both requests meet the APB CSF policy.

The Board was advised that no forest conservation was within the boundaries of the project. They also reviewed the location of the vineyard and they were advised it was considered when they were drafting their plans. There will be some open space between the CSF and the existing grape vines, but they didn't have an exact number yet. There is no green infrastructure network (GIN) in the area, and no GIN is adjacent to it either. Access to the easement is going to be from an existing driveway that comes off 97.

It was advised that this is just advice, but if there is a consensus opinion from the APB for one option over the other that it would be helpful.

Mr. Day thinks the first option takes into consideration things they have spoken about in previous meetings and thinks this is the better option. Ms. Jones concurred and motioned to advise that option one was the better option. Ms. Hudson seconded the motion. All APB members in attendance agreed with recommending that they believed option one was the better of the two presented.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1) Program Updates**

Last week was the first Agricultural Land Preservation Program settlement in four years. They acquired thirty acres of property and are preparing for a few more this summer. They anticipate a couple applicants being reviewed during the July meeting.

The Agricultural Innovation grant was updated. The grant is set up through a partnership between Howard County and EDA. The deadline for submissions is July 15.

It was advised that July's meeting will be virtual, but it is possible live meetings will start back in August. They are discussing the possibility of a hybrid model and wants the board to think about it. If they decided to do a hybrid model they may have to change the location of where the APB meetings are held.

Ms. Levy and Mr. Zoller are going to provide information about parcel easements and some solar questions at a future meeting.

## **Public Testimony**

Mr. Mariani advised the Board that he is submitting a request and hopes to be on the July agenda. He wants to transition a piece of property that he owns that isn't in Agricultural Preservation into Agricultural Preservation and transition another portion of his property that is in Agricultural Preservation out of it.

It was asked if any CSFs have started construction. They are not aware of any started but would provide a report at the next meeting.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ms. Kaiss. All in members in attendance approved the adjournment of the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.