



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY
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**HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD (APB)
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (APAB)**

January 24, 2022

Attendance:

Board Members: Mickey Day
Ann Jones (Vice Chair)
Cathy Hudson
Savannah Kaiss
Jamie Brown
Abby Gibbon

Staff: James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)
Joy Levy, Program Administrator, (ALPP)
Matthew Hoover, Administrative Aide, (OCS)
Mary Kendall, Deputy Director, (DPZ)
Morenike Oyenusi, Senior Assistant County Solicitor
Kathy Johnson, Director of Agriculture Business Development

Guest: None

Action Items

1. Minutes from the meeting of November 22, 2021

Ms. Jones motioned to approve, and it was seconded by Ms. Hudson. All members in attendance were in favor of approving the minutes.

2. Minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2021

Ms. Jones motioned to approve, and Ms. Gibbon seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor of approving the minutes.

3. Request for Recommendation on Easement Acquisition - Approval of Revised Acreage, JRNL, LLC property, 40.16 acres (APB) ([Staff Report](#))

Ms. Levy reviewed the Staff Report with the Board and showed the location of Parcel E, which is 0.9 acres, using the map provided with it. The APB previously approved an application for the property on 2/22/21. The revised acreage would provide fee simple access out to Jennings Chapel Road. JRNL does not wish to have the property

rescored and will donate the easement on the additional 0.9 acres of parcel E. The Staff recommendation is for approval.

The APB discussed the request, and some wondered how this was advantageous. There was also a concern of a road being built and commercial vehicles going through the neighborhood. The board was advised that the parcel would exist even if it was not attached to this one.

Ms. Gibbon motioned for approval, and it was seconded by Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown, Ms. Gibbon and Ms. Kaiss voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Jones and Ms. Hudson voted against the motion. The vote was three to two in favor of the motion, so the motion passed.

Discussion Items

1. Office of Community Sustainability Presentation ([Slides Link](#))

Mr. Zoller reviewed what the Office of Community Sustainability does, the programs that they help run and the many partners that work with them on these programs. Their program goals are getting local farm products out to the community, getting food to families in need of assistance, and providing education to the community.

Anticipated funding needs are for a social media campaign and a website update for the “We are HOCO Fresh” program. Funding to develop an online ordering system for the Roving Radish Market Place. To continue funding for HOCO Harvest for the Hungry and the Farm Academy. Funding to support research on how to get a meat processor in Howard County. They also anticipate increased funding needed to run the Roving Radish Marketplace and for the Roving Radish Meal Kit programs.

2. Continue discussion of future use of Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Funds

A brief outline of what was discussed during previous meetings was reviewed. Some suggested uses from previous meetings for the funds included an environmental sustainability infrastructure, solar incentive or tax programs for farms, additional funding for agricultural innovation, programs for funding to offer 4H education as well as scholarships for future farmers, and funding to provide grants to assist farmers with Best Management Practices. The Soil Conservation District also spoke to them about funding for a planner position and a new vehicle.

New ideas discussed were to request funding for urban agriculture, funding for a minority agricultural program, creating an incubator farm and to provide funding for research into getting a meat processor in Howard County. It was also mentioned, that they should request funding to assist the equestrian community. They also discussed adding in the Office of Community Sustainability requests that were reviewed during the OCS presentation.

The goal is to make sure the funding request support agriculture and local farmers. It was requested that dollar amounts be put on the county requests. A suggestion was made that they should put the requests into categories such as short range, mid-range and long-range goals.

Program Updates

[Maryland Senate Bill 296](#) to alter the definition of “agritourism” was introduced.

It was advised that if you didn’t receive the Agriculture Survey to contact the USDA NASS Division. ([website link](#))

There are three properties that are close to settlement. It is anticipated that a couple property owners are going to apply for the County program, and one is going to apply to the State program.

Since August of 2019, there has been a large group that hit the 30-year maturity date for their Installment Purchase Agreements (IPA). Over half of the people have been able to find their original documents and those who have not been able to locate their document have gone through a substitute IPA process. There will be no properties that hit their 30-year maturity date in February of 2022 or August of 2022.

Public Testimony

No public testimony

Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Hudson motioned for adjournment and Mr. Brown seconded it. All board members approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.