



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

September 23, 2019

Attendance:

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

Staff: James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)
Joy Levy, Administrator (ALPP)
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor
Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division
Amy Gowan, Deputy Director, Planning & Zoning
Leah Miller, Energy Manager (OCS)

Guest: David Yungmann, County Council
Cathy Johnson, Director of Agriculture Business Development for Economic Development
Dan O'Leary, Greater Highlands Crossroads Association
Ted Mariani, Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County
George Streaker Jr., Resident

Action Items

1) Minutes from the meeting of September 12th, 2019

No corrections. Ms. Jones motioned to approve, and Ms. Hudson seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the minutes.

2) Discuss the ALP Solar Review Policy

Before the discussion began Mr. Yungmann advised the Board that they were going to introduce two bills regarding community solar facilities (CSF). The two bills would be a companion legislation that would create a moratorium and a task force for community solar facilities. The task force would consist of seven people and two of the members would

be from the APB. He wants to get a group of people that have different views, so they can have a robust conversation about solar on farms.

The Board discussed the concerns they are having when reviewing CSFs. Some of the concerns are the size, siting, and scope of the requests. After the discussion of the APB Solar Review to the CSF Conditional Use Petition criteria, the following three motions were made.

- 1) Ms. Kaiss made the motion to amend number three for the other standards the APB may consider for the CSF policy. The motion is to add that the applicant must show the Board they are making a good faith effort of the placement of the CSF with the least impact based on soils, slopes and existing agricultural operations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hudson. All members in attendance approved the motion.
- 2) Ms. Hudson made the motion to change number one of the APB standards of review to the CSF Conditional Use Petition criteria so that the maximum acreage will be 10 acres or 10 percent of the applicant property, whichever is less. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the motion.
- 3) Mr. Brown made a motion to change number two of the APB standards of review to the CSF Conditional Use Petition criteria. The change is to the portion not included in the commercial solar operational area must have a soils capability of more than 60% Classes I-III. They are going to keep the requirement the same for the portion not included in the commercial solar operational area must have a soils capability of more than 66% USDA Classes I-IV. It was seconded by Ms. Kaiss. All members in attendance approved the motion.

Discussion Items

1) Continue discussion and review changes to ALP Scoring System

Ms. Levy provided the Board with a revised scoring sheet that had the Board's suggested changes. She provided a comparison chart of the six test properties showing the score for each item. In the scoring comparison chart, she included eleven properties that were acquired during the last cycle to show how the suggested changes scored. This was so the Board could get a broader picture on how the changes would affect the scoring. She also provided a revised comparison chart of the six test properties with various APB points assigned.

The Board requested that Ms. Levy adjust category five, the Concentration of Preserved Lands, scoring brackets to be in 25-point increments starting at 50 points. Ms. Levy advised she would do that and bring in updated scoring samples.

It was requested that Ms. Levy try to see if she could find out what are the adjacency numbers for the remaining farms that could apply for the program. Ms. Levy thinks she can get the information and advised she could get it for the ones she has test scored.

Mr. Jones moved to adjourn, and Ms. Hudson seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the motion.