



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

January 27, 2020

Attendance:

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

Staff: James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor
Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division
Matthew Hoover, Office of Community Sustainability

Guest: Joseph Rutter
Chuck Sharp
David Yungmann
Kathy Johnson
David Plummer
Theodore F. Mariani

Action Items

1) Approval of minutes from the meeting on November 25, 2019

No corrections or additions. Mr. Brown motioned to approve, and Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the minutes.

2) Discussion and finalize changes to Agricultural Land Preservation (ALP) Scoring System

The Board asked about the definition being used for agriculture. They were advised of the definition being used is from Section 15.502. – Definitions in the County Code.

(C) *Agricultural use* means farming and includes:

- (1) Dairying, pasturage, growing crops, bee keeping, horticulture, floriculture, orchards, plant nurseries, viticulture, silviculture, aquaculture, and animal and poultry husbandry;
- (2) The breeding, raising, training and general care of livestock for uses other than food, such as sport or show purposes;
- (3) Construction and maintenance of barns, silos and other similar structures, the use of farm machinery, the primary processing of agricultural products and the sale of agricultural products produced on the land where the sales are made; and
- (4) Other uses directly related to or as an accessory use of the premises for farming and agricultural purposes.

The Board reviewed each category and tiers within the categories. They also reviewed the additional points which includes the optional APB points. They made some changes and updates to the draft of the Agricultural Land Preservation Scoring System.

Ms. Jones motioned to accept the proposed changes to the formula, the Agriculture Preservation board points and the price formula with the modifications they discussed during the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Hudson. All Board members in attendance approved the changes to the Agricultural Land Preservation Scoring System.

Discussion Items

1) Program Updates

Mr. Zoller advised that Roving Radish is having their winter meat sale

Ms. Hudson gave an update on the Solar Task Force. There are eight tasks that were given to them from the legislation for the Solar Task Force to review. The Solar Task Force updates and their meeting schedule will be posted on-line on the Environmental Sustainability Board webpage.

2) Proposed ZRA for combining preservation parcels – Joe Rutter

Mr. Rutter reviewed changes they are proposing for the ZRA for combining preservation parcels. He reviewed it with the Board, so they could provide feedback. Their intent for updating the legislation is so they can adjust the property lines to expand the size of farms.

3) Agricultural Innovation Grants – Kathy Johnson

Ms. Johnson discussed the Agricultural Innovation Grant program with the Board. She handed out and reviewed the scoring sheet that is used for applications they receive. The committee recently received the last round of grant applications and they are scheduled to vote for them on February 7th.

Public testimony

Mr. Mariani had the opportunity on Friday to participate in the teleconference that the State Task Force on Sustainable Energy runs every month. During the teleconference the Maryland Farm Bureau presented their policy on commercial solar facilities (CSF) and he passed out a summary of the policy to the Board.

Mr. Sharp addressed the Board about the calculation that is used for the scoring of Soil Productivity as Measured by Land Evaluation Score in the Agricultural Land Preservation Scoring System.

Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ms. Hudson. All members in attendance approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.