

## Howard County Solar Task Force Meeting – 4/21/2020

### Minutes and Action Items

#### Attendees

Members: Amy Gowan; Cathy Hudson; Corey Ramsden; Dani Phillips; Franny Yuhas; Howie Feaga; James Zoller; John Dove; Joy Levy; Keith Ohlinger; Kelly Hensing; Kevin Lucas  
Guests: Patrick Boddicker (Howard County Office of Community Sustainability), Geoff Goins (Howard County Chief of Zoning), Mary Kendall (Howard County Deputy Director for Planning and Zoning)

#### New Task Force Member

- Dani Phillips was appointed as a new co-chair of the task force, replacing Leah Miller.

#### Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 3/31/2020 were approved with amended attendees.

#### Rescheduling of Public Hearing

- The Solar Task Force Public Hearing will need to be rescheduled. A new date/time was not set.

#### Presentations

While there were no formal presentations, Dani Phillips from Howard County's Office of Community Sustainability presented a summary of answers to various questions that task force members provided in writing individually. The questions were focused on incentives for solar in the County as well as updates to zoning regulations. Members discussed incentives versus mandates for solar installations, as well as incentivizing pollinator habitats or farming under solar. Members were in agreement that there should be minimal to no limitations on rooftop solar arrays in any zoning district. Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning would like to allow for a solar installation where more than 50% of the power is used off-site, as they have received these types of requests in the past (i.e. aggregated net metering). Members agreed that this should be allowed for rooftop installations. Corey Ramsden suggested looking into the 2018 International Green Construction Code for ideas on zoning regulations. There were also suggestions that the solar zoning definitions should be amended to have a clear distinction between 1) ground-mount and rooftop solar arrays and 2) residential and non-residential zoning districts.

#### Action Items

- James Zoller will send out a poll to determine the best day/time to reschedule the public hearing.
- Corey Ramsden will send more information to the group regarding the 2018 International Green Construction Code.
- Cathy will send more information on solar interference with Ham Radio signals.