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

February 24, 2020

Attendance:

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

Staff:  James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)
        Lisa O’Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor
        Joy Levy, Administrator (ALPP)
        Matthew Hoover, Office of Community Sustainability

Guest:  Keith Walker
        Theodore F. Mariani
        James Hurt

Action Items

1)  Approval of minutes from the meeting on January 27, 2020

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

2)  Request for Approval, Relocation of Child Lot, Hurt property, HO-89-06-E(S), 55.14 acres (APB)

Ms. Levy reviewed the staff report with the Board. She also handed out two large scale maps that displayed the farm and the location of the requested child lot. The property is on the East side of 32 north of Old Frederick Road. The Board reviewed a previous child lot request for the farm in July, but they were unable to use the requested location because they couldn’t locate a suitable perc.

Mr. Hurt advised that they are still looking for a perc. The proposed lot is in middle of small field and the field is a corn and soy bean rotation. The way the lot is being configured, farming will continue to happen on the North, West and South sides.
There was a question about using the existing driveway and a question about a proposed boundary line on one of the maps. The Board was advised that they are going to use the existing driveway to serve the requested lot. The property line on the map was from a previous request and it is Mr. Hurts and his brother’s property line.

Ms. Jones motioned for the approval of the requested child lot location with the understanding that location may need to be adjusted. The motion approved the adjusting of the child lot location within 75 feet from the top dimension of the requested location within the property lines. Ms. Hudson seconded the motion. All Board members in attendance approved the motion.

Discussion Items

1) Program Updates

ALP Scoring update: The County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball, reviewed the updated scoring sheet. It was pre-filed on Thursday and will go to Council in March. It could be voted on as early as the first Monday in April.

Solar Task Force update: Ms. Hudson and Mr. Zoller gave an update on the Solar Task Force. At the last meeting the Agricultural Board gave a presentation. Some of the upcoming meeting topics will include conditional uses and agricultural uses.

EDA put together a group to discuss what can potentially be done on Agricultural Preservation land.

It was asked what the State mandate is for renewable energy is? The Board was advised for Maryland the renewable energy portfolio standard is 25% by 2020 and 50% by 2030. It was also advised that the renewable energy doesn’t have to come from within the state.

It was announced to the Board that this will be Ms. O’Brien’s last official meeting. Mr. Day thanked her for her service to the Board and Ms. O’Brien said it has been a pleasure working with the Board.

Public Testimony

Mr. Hurt addressed the Board about an error with the IPA interest that was being reported on his brother’s and his 1099s. The 1099 has that they made more than what they did from the interest and that it could cause issues. He was advised to contact the Registrar to get the error corrected.

Mr. Hurt advised, while doing his taxes, he came across a section about profit that is derived from the sale of an easement and it possibly not being taxable by the state. He was advised that he should contact a tax advisor.

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ms. Hudson. All members in attendance approved the adjourning of the meeting.