

Howard County Solar Task Force Meeting – 6/16/2020

Minutes and Action Items

Attendees

Members: Amber Butler; Amy Gowan; Cathy Hudson; Corey Ramsden; Dani Phillips; Franny Yuhas; James Zoller; John Dove; Joy Levy; Keith Ohlinger; Kelly Hensing; Kevin Lucas
Guests: Stefano Ratti; Mary Kendall; Geoff Goins; Matthew Hoover; Patrick Boddicker

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 6/2/2020 were approved.

Presentations

There were no formal presentations at this meeting.

Discussion

Amy Gowan followed up on the action item from the 6/2/20 meeting and said it's not possible to layer Howard County's Ag Pres land map over the state's solar capacity map. Her team contacted the state to inquire but discovered this cannot be done at this time.

Corey Ramsden sent background materials on solar installations, including answers to common FAQs and addressing misconceptions related to solar installations, and this document was shared with the Task Force members after today's meeting.

The Task Force then continued discussions on recommendations/answers to questions 1-3 of those originally posed to the Task Force. On the first question, members discussed in which zoning district the Task Force's recommended new definition of commercial solar should apply, with special attention to not eliminate brownfield sites from consideration. On the second question, members discussed glare studies outside of the RC/RR zoning districts. On the third question, members discussed the role the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) should play. Members wanted to ensure that the primary use of agricultural preservation land be for agriculture and discussed the best way for the ALPB to proceed with requests for solar projects.

Action Items

None