

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – February 16, 2021

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman, Dennis Kirkwood, Tami Imbierowicz, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton, John Lloyd

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Steve Walsh, John Resline, Matt Kropp

Review / Approval of January 19, 2021 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the January 19th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Harford County Agricultural Protection Easements – Mr. Bill Amoss, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

Mr. Amoss works alongside 11 organizations, including the Maryland Historical and Environmental Trusts and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, utilizing the DNR Local Legacy and Harford County Land Preservation Programs, among others, to protect agricultural lands in Harford County from development. He proudly points out that Maryland was the first state to have state-wide easements available to protect agricultural land from urban sprawl.

Surprisingly, statistics show that preserving agricultural land is actually more economical than building development! The benefits of such land preservation include permanent protective easements, ensuring the land will forever be used only for farming, as well as monetary funding for farmers in exchange for being a member of a land protection program.

In the year 2020, Harford County approved 51 applications for agricultural land easements. These properties will be assessed every three years to determine their monetary value, which will determine the payment to each farmer. Value is based upon a ranking system of the environmental benefits observed on the property, such as buffer habitat and overall preservation goals being met.

Over 56,340 acres of land have been preserved in Harford County so far, and a goal has been set to reach 75,000 acres preserved by the year 2040.

Departmental Updates

Mr. Kropp opened the discussion with an opportunity for the EAB members to attend meetings using a different virtual platform, Cisco Webex, instead of our more recent usage of Microsoft Teams. The group unanimously agreed to try Webex. Mr. Kropp also announced that all Harford County employees were to begin working full-time in the office again, beginning March 1st.

Mr. Magness stated that Phase II of the Ma & Pa trail was to begin in March.

Mr. Walsh announced that 6,160 pounds of hazardous waste was recycled in February. He also stated that the Heavenly Waters and Stillmeadow Stream restoration projects were to begin soon.

Mr. Resline announced that rabies clinics would still be held in Harford County this year, but by appointment only, until further notice.

New Business

None.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm