



Harford County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes May 4, 2021

Opening

The meeting of the Harford County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00pm on May 4, 2021 via conference call.

Board Attendees

Jeff Holloway, Megan McMillian, Jim Morris, Jackie Smithson and John Stump

Staff: Bill Amoss & Jen Wilson

Guests: Dennis McDaniel

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Morris moved to approve minutes from the April 6, 2021 meeting with Mrs. Smithson seconding. The minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business

- The Board reviewed a request by Andrew & Henry Holloway to adjust the boundary line between their farms. The owners have been operating under the assumed property line for quite some time and now need to legally revise the boundary. Both farms are under County easements. The Board agreed the adjustment made sense. Mr. Holloway moved to approve the request. Mr. Morris seconded, and the motion was approved.
- The Board reviewed a request by Dennis McDaniel to relocate his existing, vacant child lot. The farm is under a County Easement. Mr. Amoss explained in reviewing lot requests, the Board generally tries to limit the loss of ag land knowing the lot could be sold outside of the family in the future. Lot 1 and 2 are currently adjacent lots, however Mr. McDaniel is proposing to reduce the panhandle and place the lot closer to the road near a corner of the farm. Board members and Mr. McDaniel discussed the proposed lot layout and location, existing conditions of the farm, as well as possible impacts on the farm operation. Mr. McDaniel indicated the location has not been perc tested and expects to do so in the fall. It was properly moved and seconded to accept the proposed location. The motion was approved.

- Mr. Amoss reviewed the status of the 15 farms approved by the County Council in 2020 for easement purchases. 5 or 6 properties are close to settlement with a mid-August deadline to complete settlement. Some may take that long due to survey work required prior to closing. Twenty-five (25) offers have been accepted for 2021, which allowed all applicants on the existing list to receive an offer. The Bills & Resolutions are expected to be introduced by the County Council at the May 11th session with a public hearing in June.
- Mr. Amoss updated the Board on the pending MALPF settlements. Most of the FY20 farms have settled or are very close. FY21 applications are receiving offers. Some have declined their offer in favor of pursuing a County easement, so MALPF staff are moving down the list of applicants and making additional offers.
- Mr. Amoss updated the Board on a pending Rural Legacy easement that was recently approved by the Board of Public Works and is now waiting on the money to be sent to the County in order to schedule settlement. He is also working with a few other applicants for the current grant.
- Ms. Wilson updated the Board on the status of MALPF compliance inspections. Approximately 40 inspections need completed by June 30th. So far there have been no violations noted and landowners have been very cooperative during the process.
- Mr. Amoss updated the Board on a current enforcement issue with a Rural Legacy Easement and hopes to resolve the issue soon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm