

## HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

### FINAL APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – February 18, 2020

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Members Present: Paul Gartelman, Sally LaBarre, Tami Imbierowicz, Jaclyn Koehn, John Lloyd, Michael Charlton, Roland Beckman

Ex-officio Members Present: Jeff Schoenberger, Eric Willem (standing in for John Resline), Matt Kropp, Paul Magness

#### Review / Approval of January 21, 2020 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

#### Transportation Climate Initiative – Mr. Joel Gallihue, Chief of Long Range Planning

Mr. Gallihue provided an update from the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board as a member of their Technical Committee. The Transportation Climate Initiative proposes to develop a policy regarding clean transportation for the region in a “cap and invest” fashion. The Initiative proposes to allow fuel wholesale companies and distributors to purchase and/or trade a maximum number of “permissions to emit CO<sub>2</sub>” at auction events, directed by State agencies. Proceeds from these auctions will then be invested into pollution reduction or clean air programs for the region. Gas stations and consumers would not have any regulatory obligation as a result of this policy.

Hopefully, the need for fuel companies to purchase a “right to pollute” will incentivize the creation of alternatives to fuel-powered vehicles. As more and more fuel-powered vehicles leave the roadways, the number of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicle traffic lessens, thereby increasing the air quality. A Model Regulation will be developed in Spring 2020. The Initiative could be in place as early as Spring 2022.

#### County Zoning and Board of Appeals Process – Mr. Dave Culver, Dept. of Planning and Zoning

Mr. Culver began the presentation with some basic definitions used in the Department of Planning and Zoning. “Zoning” is defined as the partitioning of land into zones for different purposes, with every piece of land having a zoning classification. Harford County currently uses a Euclidian zoning system where specific uses/development activities are only permitted within certain areas. Form-Based Zoning or “Smart Code” refers to a type of zoning that allows a natural progression of development from natural/rural areas to highly developed urban/industrial areas. Harford County is working toward using this latter kind of zoning in the future.

The Board of Appeals refers to cases brought forth to the County Council for review, in hopes that a specific request will be granted. Such requests may include variances to the provisions found in the Zoning Code, special exceptions, special developments (where applicable), rezoning, and appeals of written determination by the Director of Planning and Zoning. Each

request has a different set of standards and requirements that must be met in order for the Hearing Examiner to grant that request. Special Zoning areas, including the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, Floodplains, and Natural Resource Districts have an additional set of requirements that must be met in order to be granted the request at the Board of Appeals. The entire Appeals Process can take four to five months, beginning with a pre-application meeting with Planning and Zoning staff and concluding with a written decision from the Hearing Examiner.

### Departmental Updates

Matt Kropp reported that Arbor Day is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Scarboro Landfill, events are to begin at 10:00am. Jeff Schoenberger reported that Hazardous Waste Collection program received 4 tons of material a few weeks back. He also reported that the Plumtree Stream Restoration project at Barrington is nearly completed. Paul Magness reported that the County has received final review from State Highway Administration for “Segment 2” of the Ma and Pa trail. The County will advertise the project for bid in Summer/Fall of this year. Eric Willem reported that the Heath Dept. will have rabies vaccination clinics coming up, details can be found on their web page.

### New Business

Matt Kropp mentioned that the next EAB meeting will be a field trip to Emory Knolls Farm in Street to see how the business operates and contributes to the green roof industry in the region on April 21, 2020.

There was discussion about future topics of the EAB. Sally asked that the group could get an update on Abingdon Business Park. Paul mentioned that he would want to see the EAB be involved in the Comprehensive Zoning review process, as the EAB had been involved with in the past. Solid waste, recycling efforts, and continued efforts to implement Green Infrastructure throughout the County were mentioned as topics.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.