

**Planning Advisory Board  
Meeting Summary  
March 9, 2022**

**Attendance:**

James Thornton  
Diane Sengstacke  
Aaron Penman  
Geoffrey Close

**P&Z Staff:**

Jenny Jarkowski  
Jennifer Freeman

**Also in Attendance:**

Joel Gallihue – Planning and Zoning  
Jacob Bensen – Planning and Zoning

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) **Minutes/Summary**

The PAB members approved the summary of the November 2021 PAB meeting.

- 3) **HCC Connector/ US 40 Project**

Joel Gallihue presented for Planning and Zoning. He said these are two projects that are part of the Bike/Pedestrian Plan. He used the website to explain. On the project map he showed where the HCC Connector trail will be and where the US 40 project will be. He explained low stress networks which is what they are trying to connect. HCC Connector will connect Bel Air to Harford Community College. There will be engagement meetings and putting together a report. He showed a map that shows the level of traffic on certain roads.

Mr. Close asked if they can use existing pathways. Mr. Gallihue said they have to look at that in this study. Ms. Sengstacke said will they widen Patterson Mill. Mr. Gallihue those are the options they are going to have to look at. This is grant funded. Mr. Thornton said they could come up with a recommendation that we won't be able to fund. Mr. Gallihue said that is possible. It is likely we would get some grant money and other ideas. Mr. Thornton asked how we could create advocacy as a community for these types of projects. Would it be during the Capital planning process? Mr. Gallihue said there are active groups. The Bike/Ped plan can be used to find information and educate about what

might be needed. Ms. Jarkowski said the department also works to get money for the projects, through grants or matching funds.

Route 40 is designated as a bike route but it is such a high volume highway. So they have identified a connector trail between Aberdeen Train Station and the Hadem Bridge. It would help to commute to work on a bike or get to other recreational facilities. Mr. Penman said there is a bike lane at the college that stops before and after. Is there corporations with the State for state highways? Mr. Gallihue said it can take a little time to get everyone on board. Mr. Thornton asked if there are any federal funds available because of APG. Mr. Gallihue said there is a program. It requires some kind of public activity at the base. Almost all the money goes to the west coast. The main applicate is national parks.

#### **4) Design Guidelines**

Jacob Bensen presented the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines. They were adopted in July 2021. They cover the most common issue with historic preservation. This can include roofs, windows, doors, and siding. This is the standard the Historic Preservation Commission when they are reviewing proposed projects. The design guidelines update fills in gaps in the existing document. It will establish guidelines for the historic districts in Harford County and sustainability. The update is partially funded by a certified local government grant. From the Maryland Historical Trust. Right now they are getting public comments about draft. Certified Local Government program is a national program through the National Park Service. It sets a certain way historic preservation commissions are staffed and selected. Our zoning code was rewritten to be able to be a part of this program.

Mr. Thornton asked where Harford County is compared to the other 23 jurisdictions relative to preservation. Mr. Bensen said it depends on the aspect you are looking at. For architectural aspects we are doing well. In terms of archaeology, we are at the lower end. Our Historic Preservation Commission is well represented by all aspects of the historic preservation community in the county. Mr. Penman asked what are some incentives for private property owners to enter their residents into historical. Mr. Bensen said there is a Harford County Historic Preservation tax credit. There is also a state historic preservation tax credit. Ms. Sengstacke said about the archaeological aspects of the Harford County. Mr. Bensen said one of our main focuses right now is the Old Joppa Historic District. Mr. Penman asked if the guidelines are found online. Mr. Bensen said they are.

#### **5) Other Business**

Mr. Jarkowski said we are doing an update to the Critical Area Zoning Code.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

