

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – March 15th, 2022

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton, Pamela Pape-Lindstrom, Lynn Faulkner, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman, Dennis Kirkwood

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Matt Kropp, Eric Willem, Jeff Schoenberger, Joel Gallihue

Public: Ms. Claire Jaffe, Pennoni Inc.

Welcome

Paul G welcomed the EAB, which most of the members were attending through Teams.

Review / Approval of February 15th, 2022 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the February 15th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Update of the Harford County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)

Paul Magness, Claire Jaffe, and Joel Gallihue shared the presenting of the LPPRP update.

Every County in Maryland is required by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to update their plan to remain eligible for open space funding. The purpose of the plan is to evaluate the demand for parklands and recreational facilities based on need, proximity, and equity.

The Plan examined existing inventory of various parks and recreation, compared to various demographic information. The plan solicited feedback from Harford citizens on levels of activity and satisfaction at various parks facilities. Based on HarfordNEXT's goal of 30 acres local recreation for every 1000 County residents, the study found that the County is currently meeting that goal. However, approximately 560 additional acres of land will be needed to meet the 2035 goal.

The proximity and equity analysis identified 6 areas that are in medium to high need. These areas include Aberdeen, Bel Air, Joppa, Emmorton, Edgewood, Belcamp, and Havre de Grace.

Other important chapters in the plan examine natural resource and conservation. The County's Green Infrastructure Plan and Agricultural Preservation Programs are key to preserving important environmental and agricultural areas. The plan found that since 2016, there has been an increase of 2,117 acres of protected agricultural lands, and the number of farms in the County has increased for the first time since 1992.

Departmental Updates

Jeff Schoenberger stated that the C. Milton Wright stream restoration project is now complete. He also reported that the stream work is now complete at Heavenly Waters Park. He reminded the group about the Arbor Day Tree Planting at Scarboro on April 15th, 2022.

Mr. Magness asked that the EAB review the Draft LPPRP, which should be available at the end of March. Comments could be sent to him or Matt. A letter from the EAB could be drafted regarding comments / support of the Plan.

Mr. Eric Willem reported that wet-season perc tests still have not begun due how dry the County has been. There will be rabies clinics on April 24th, 2022 and May 1st 2022. There will also be a Peach Bottom training exercise on April 27th, 2022.

Mr. Gallihue reported that the Department has been busy revising Critical Area Code and Program language, while also interviewing potential candidates for the Critical Area / Planner position.

New Business

Matt stated that the EAB has previously provided review / comment on the Critical Area Code and Program during past revisions and updates. The Department would like to have a similar review and letter for this update.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm