



Harford County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes May 3, 2022

Opening

The meeting of the Harford County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00pm on May 3, 2022 at 220 South Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014.

Board Attendees

Megan McMillian, Jim Morris, Jackie Smithson and John Stump

Jeff Holloway was unable to attend.

Staff: Bill Amoss & Jen Wilson

Guests: Deborah Bowers

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 2022 meeting were approved unanimously without changes.

New Business

- The Board reviewed a request by the Heaps family for a child's lot around an existing home under a County easement. Mr. Amoss presented the request. The lot would be created for Benjamin Heaps, son of Michael T. Heaps. Benjamin would have to live in the home for five (5) years before transferring the lot. The family may request to build a new home on the farm in the future, but that would be a separate request that is not being made at this time. Ms. McMillan moved to approve the request. Mr. Morris seconded. The motion passed.
- The Board reviewed requests for a Conservation Tax Credit to be applied to the Bottiglieri Property and the Butterbee Farm Property, both of which are subject to Conservation Easements with Harford Land Trust and/or Maryland Environmental Trust. Ms. Wilson explained the criteria for the Conservation Tax Credit and provided the Board with copies of the Deed of Easements for the properties. The Board discussed the criteria for the credit and confirmed both were subject to easements by qualified conservation organizations. Mr. Morris motioned to approve the properties for the tax credit. Ms. Smithson seconded. The motion passed.

- The Board reviewed a request by Andrew and Jennifer Green to relocate the designated building envelope on a MALPF easement. Mr. Amoss provided background on the easement and explained the purpose of the building envelope. The owners want to move the envelope to provide a better fit for their operation in a more central location. Mr. Morris motioned to approve request. Ms. Smithson seconded. The motion passed.
- Ms. Deborah Bowers provided the Board with a recap of the recommendations being suggested by the working group for the County Program. The Board and Ms. Bowers discussed proposed ranking and valuation. No suggestions were made on minimum criteria for properties to be eligible for the program. The workgroup is hoping to present to the County Administration next.
- Mr. Amoss provided the Board with an update on the pending MALPF easements. FY21 settlements are taking place with several already completed. FY22 offers are still being accepted. Some owners are still waiting to get an offer. FY23 applications are coming in. Those applications are due to MALPF by July 1. An informational mailer is going out to landowners and will likely spur additional applications.
- Mr. Amoss updated the Board on pending County easements. Surveys are underway and owners are working on their requirements prior to settlement.
- Mr. Amoss updated the Board on pending Rural Legacy easements. One (1) easement was recently approved by the Board of Public Works and the County is waiting to receive the money from the State for settlement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm