



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

STEPHEN LAFFERTY, Director
Department of Planning

Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board
Meeting Agenda

MEETING: May 11, 2022 Board Meeting – 6:30 PM @ Webex Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Board Members Present: John Merryman, Steve Myer, Brenda Strohmer, Holly Gilmore

Staff: Megan, David Birkenthal

Others: Ann Jones (ex officio, Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance) Erica Crowl (ex officio), Jim Ensor (ex officio), Bruce Doak, Thomas Baum, Joe Schafer

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes of: **April 13, 2022**

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 13, 2022

Motioned by: Brenda Strohmer

Seconded by: Steve Myer

Decision: Unanimous Approval

B. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.

II. MALPF EASEMENT LANDOWNER REQUESTS/ISSUES

III. BALTIMORE COUNTY EASEMENT/LANDOWNER REQUESTS/ ISSUES

IV. BALTIMORE COUNTY PERMITS & DEVELOPMENT APPLICANTS

A. Baum, Thomas A. – Hidden Waters LLC – 3250 Old Court Road, Pikesville – 109.605 ac – MET Easement

Request: Verification of farm use for the farmer's roadside stand.

Background: The Board is asked review and make a recommendation of a Farmer's Roadside Stand for the Hidden Waters farm, located inside the beltway along Old Court Road.

The farm is in a 3 year transition to organic and fields have been planted into pasture grasses. Fences are planned to be constructed in the first quarter of 2022.

Mr. Baum has been working with Joseph Shaffer, a local regenerative farmer to develop and convert the grain farm into a regenerative, organic farm with the intent to raise grass fed beef, pork, poultry and other livestock, with some acreage reserved for vegetable production. The owner has indicated that at least 50% of the products sold at the stand will be grown the farm.

The Board is being asked to review and verify the status of the farm.

Zoning Requirements (BCZR 404.4)

- Located on a farm

- Owner shall be agricultural producer
- At least 50% of produce sold annually shall be grown on (a) premises where stand is located, (b) adjacent (Webster's definition- next door or nearby), or (c) other property owned by applicant.
- Zoning Affidavit allows for request for review of production-related records associated with the property from landowner (see attached).

Discussion: Megan Benjamin provided background to the Board. David Birkenthal presented photos from the site visit. Jim Ensor informed the Board that a Soil & Water Conservation plan is being developed for the property. Bruce Doak, representative for the applicant, informed the Board that the appropriate measures for the zoning review of the roadside stand use permit have been followed. Thomas Baum informed the Board that he has been working with MET to ensure compliance with the property's conservation easement and provided a summary of existing and proposed agricultural production on the property. Jim Ensor inquired as to the square footage of the disturbed area for the existing farm stand structure. Mr. Baum informed the Board that the disturbed area for the existing structure is approximately 4500 SF. Bruce Doak informed the Board that most of this disturbed area would be planted back. Jim Ensor stated that a disturbed area over 5000 SF would have required a grading permit. Joe Schafer informed the Board of his experience in agriculture and proposed activities for the proposed roadside farm stand.

Motion: Verification of farm use on the property for the farmer's roadside stand

Motioned by: Brenda Strohmer

Seconded by: Steve Myer

Decision: Unanimous Approval

V. STATUS OF EASEMENT TRANSACTIONS/ INSPECTIONS/ UPDATES

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/ INFORMATION/ CORRESPONDENCE/ NEWS ARTICLES

Megan Benjamin informed the Board that staff will be in contact with them to schedule site visits for application to the MALPF FY23 cycle.

VII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Next Meeting: June 8, 2022

VIII. ADJOURNMENT