



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

STEPHEN LAFFERTY, Director
Department of Planning

Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEETING: July 19 2023 Board Meeting – 6:30 PM (start delayed until 7:05 PM to reach a quorum) @ Webex

Attendees:

Board Members Present: Steve Myer, Holly Gilmore, Rick Bernstein

Staff: Megan Benjamin, Abigail Rogers

Others: Sandy Frank, Renee Hamidi

I. BALTIMORE COUNTY EASEMENT/LANDOWNER REQUESTS/ ISSUES

A. Frank, Raymond & Sandra – 2800 Monkton Road, Monkton - 92 +/- ac - (BC 02-20)

Request: Review and approval of a proposed event to be held on August 4-6, 2023

Background: The Franks have provided details for a proposed event, to be held August 4-6, 2023. This proposed event would be the Frank's 5th event of 2023. For the temporary event, the parking area will be the same as was approved by the Board in July 2022 for their temporary events (~4 acres as shown in exhibit). Under the Guidelines, this qualifies as a Tier 2 Ag-related event and thus requires Ag Board approval since the requested parking is greater than 2 acres (see Section B.14. page 8 of Guidelines, attached). In addition, any event must be farm or forest related (see Section B, page 8). The number, frequency and scale of events are limited to 8, by the Special Exception Order 2017-0327-X If impacted, any farm or forested area must be maintained or restored to its original condition. The Board is asked to review the event to confirm it is farm or forest related and to review the requested parking area for the event listed below:

August 4-6 (noon-10pm): Pig Roast / Farm Fresh Food Event

Discussion: Previously and related to review(s) of matters before the Board involving 2800 Monkton Road, certain Board Members have recused themselves from the vote. Accordingly, to ensure a quorum for the vote, Megan Benjamin of the Department of Planning, consulted with the Office of Law regarding conflict of interest(s). Per the Baltimore County Code ("BCC") § 7-1-301(c)(1): *A public official who otherwise would be disqualified from participation under subsection (a) of this section shall disclose the nature and circumstances of the conflict, and may participate or act, if: (1) The disqualification would leave a body with less than a quorum capable of acting.* In accordance with BCC, Rick Bernstein disclosed that his farm, First Fruits Farm, has received donations from Inverness Brewing (2800 Monkton Road), owned by the Franks. Mr. Bernstein stated that the contributions were not major contributions. Mr. Bernstein stated he felt he was able to make an unbiased recommendation related to this item. Holly Gilmore also disclosed that she knows the Franks and has recused herself in the past

from items brought to the Board by the Franks.

Megan Benjamin presented the background information. Sandy Frank indicated the August 4-6 event will be similar in size and space utilized as previous events that the Board has reviewed. Megan Benjamin asks Board members if they have any questions on the case. Megan Benjamin asks if there any questions from panelists and there were no responses. Steve Myer called for a motion.

Motion: Recommendation of approval for the August 4-6 event at 2800 Monkton Road.

Motioned by: Rick Bernstein

Seconded by: Holly Gilmore

Decision: Unanimous Approval

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:28 PM