

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee- October 20, 2020 Agenda

1. Call the Meeting to Order-Introductions:
2. Approval of the September 15, 2020 AAC meeting minutes.
3. Update on the expanded Farm to Food Bank Program. This program has been working well for the 6 farmers that are participating and almost 50,000 pounds of food has been delivered to Manna with expectations of another 40,000 pounds to be delivered through the end of December. The participating farmers are being paid competitive prices above the wholesale prices. We have received applications from 25 farmers to participate in the Phase II program for 2021 growing season where we hope over 75,000 pounds of food will be delivered to Mana Food Center. *Please see the attached summary of the Farm to Food Bank Program.*
4. Update on the Solar ZTA 20-01. The Full County Council Work Session scheduled for October 6, 2020 was postponed until Tuesday October 13, 2020. We believe the two meetings at Randy Stabler's house-August 28 and September 18, 2020 have helped the Council to slow the Solar ZTA down and ask for additional input. Council President Katz stated that he will meet with the PHED Committee Chair-Hans Riemer and the T&E Committee Chair-Tom Hucker to discuss how the Solar ZTA 20-01 will be directed back to the Joint Committees for additional work sessions. The full County Council has some concerns about assigning the Solar ZTA to a task force. *The Office of Agriculture will present to all agricultural groups a list of potential amendments, suggestions and concerns surrounding the Solar ZTA.*
5. The Office of Agriculture has been included in a Commerce Cabinet that has met on July 31 and September 11, 2020. The OAG has reported that in working with MNCPPC on the Thrive 2050 General Plan Update, all vacant commercial and office space buildings should be retrofitted into affordable housing units with the application of using TDRs and BLTs. The County has determined that 40,000 additional affording housing units are needed in the next 10 years.
6. The Office of Agriculture worked with John Zawitoski of the MSCD to develop a virtual farm tour of One Acre Farm owned by Michael Protas. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReiBgu81aHM>
7. Paula Linthicum spoke with Colby Ferguson of the Maryland Farm Bureau about the Legislative Luncheons that Montgomery County has conducted for the past two years. In light of COVID-19, we are now planning for a Legislative Webinar where members of the Montgomery County Delegation

and County Council can attend virtually. The agricultural groups will huddle up to develop a program-agenda for this Legislative Webinar that we hope to schedule in December 2020.

8. Next Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-November 17, 2020

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2020

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- November 3, 2020

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-November 10, 2020

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-November 13, 2020