

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agenda February 15, 2022

1. Call the meeting to order and introductions.
2. Approval of the January 18, 2022, AAC minutes.

3. **Introduction of Bills: November 2, 2021- Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)**

The Transportation and Environment- T&E Committee work session is still pending.

4. **ZTA 21-07 Height and Density Allocations for MPDUs-Affordable Housing-**

The Office of Agriculture is working with the League of Women Voters to suggest an alternative way to achieve incentives for affordable housing that uses TDRs. The Office of Agriculture remitted a second letter to the County Council that advocates amendments to TDR Overlay zones that will create incentives for using TDRs for affordable housing. Please see the attached request from Council Member Reimer the Office of Legislative Oversight-OLO to provide a status on the use of both TDRs and BLTs to the Council. This will be the first report on the status of TDRs and BLTs since 2008.

5. **Public Hearing and Action on Supplemental Appropriation FY22-27 Ag Land Preservation CIP Program-February 8, 2022-***Please see the attached PDF file on the Racial Equity and Social Justice-RESJ recommendations on the Supplemental Appropriation totaling \$3,675,816 for Ag Land Preservation Easements and OAG staff responses to the Office of Management and Budget.*

6. **Follow up on Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability- Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards**

The letter from the AAC to the County Council recommended that Bill 16-21 should be amended, and Montgomery County should follow the lead of Washington State and exempt all existing and new agricultural buildings.

7. **Beginning Farmer Course-** The Beginning Farmer Course will start next Thursday evening, February 10, and run for a total of 9 weeks. For more information, visit the registration website. The local in-person classes will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Topics will include soils, crop planning, financing, equipment, permits and licenses, and pest management.

8. **State Bills in the 2022 Legislative Session we are tracking.**

SB 39 Feasibility Study to reinstate MDA Meat Inspectors

SB 268 Transfer of Enforcement from MDA to MDE for pesticide enforcement-Withdrawn

HB 485 Sunday Hunting in Montgomery County

HB 184 On-Farm Composting Facilities Regulations

HB 318 On site wastewater regulations

SB 296 Agritourism Definition to include Incidental overnight farm stays

SB 567 SDAT Assessments on Farm Alcohol Production and Agritourism properties

HB 934 Prohibition on the Use and Sale of Gasoline Blowers

9. Mike Scheffel and Jeremy Criss have a meeting with MNCPPC staff to begin discussions on the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update. <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RusticRoadsFunctionalMasterPlan1996ocr300.pdf>

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-master-plans/>
10. The MD-DNR Released the deer harvesting report for the 2021-2022 Hunting Season and deer harvest rates are down statewide and Montgomery experienced a significant decline approximately 19%. <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/02/10/maryland-hunters-report-taking-70845-deer-in-2021-2022-season/>
11. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is March 15, 2022.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Beginning Farm Courses start on Thursday -February 10, 2022 and continues for 9 weeks.
Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 15, 2022
North American Raspberry and Blackberry Conference-Gaithersburg-February 21-23, 2022
Agronomy Update-Urbana Fire Hall-February 23, 2022
Mini-Farmer Conference-One Acre Farm-Rescheduled to February 25, 2022
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- March 1, 2022
Taste of Maryland-Rescheduled to March 3, 2022
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-March 8, 2022