



Montgomery County, MD
Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
Regular Meeting Agenda
July 15, 2025

1. Introductions
2. Approval of the June 17, 2025, AAC minutes
3. Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) and Building Lot Termination (BLT) Programs
No update since June 2025
4. Proposed solar projects in the Agricultural Reserve

The Public Services Commission (PSC)'s deadlines to render decisions on the Chaberton Solar [Sugarloaf](#) project (4 MW array proposed for 16 acres on 20507 Darnestown Road, Dickerson) and Chaberton [Ramiere](#) project (3 MW array proposed for 11 acres on 17600 Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville) are August 15 and December 31, 2025, respectively.

On June 26, the Planning Board voted in favor of the conditional use application for the [Mountain Vale solar project](#) (1.8 MW array proposed for 11 acres on 17700 Barnesville Rd). Because the facility will generate under 2 MW, the project is still required to obtain approval from the Montgomery County Hearing Examiner. Given that the proposed project conforms to the county's zoning standards for community solar projects in the AR zone, the OAG submitted a letter of support to the Planning Department, as required for the application to be approved.

5. [SB0931/HB1036](#), Public Utilities – Generating Stations – Generation and Siting
No update since May 2025
6. [Bill 18-25, Forest Conservation – Trees](#)

Introduced on June 17, this bill mainly aims to align Chapter 22A (Forest Conservation) of the County Code with changes in the state regulations that resulted from State Senate Bill 526. However, the bill would also expand the definition of “tree” to:

“a large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks measuring at least one inch caliper and numerous branches that reach a height of at least 20 feet at maturity” (underlined text denotes an addition to the Code).

This coincides with the State's definition except for the one-inch caliper threshold. This County Bill would also exempt photovoltaic arrays from the afforestation requirements



specified in this chapter, in accordance with State Senate Bill 526. The OAG remitted the AAC's written testimony to the County Council on June 25. The public hearing was held on July 8. Next, the bill will go to the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, for which a work session has not been scheduled yet.

7. Agritourism discussion

On July 28, the County Council's Economic Development Committee will hold a work session on agritourism. The OAG may be asked to give a presentation on the current state of agritourism in the county.

8. The next meeting of the AAC will be held on August 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

9. Upcoming meetings and events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board meeting: August 8, 2025

Agricultural Leaders Luncheon: August 11, 2025

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting: August 11, 2025

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board meeting: August 12, 2025