

From: [Criss, Jeremy](#)
To: [Heyboer, Tommy](#); croppcattle@yahoo.com; doug@laytonsvillelandscaping.com; [Cissel, Bob](#); butlerbery@msn.com; mjam0422@yahoo.com; [Robert Butz](#)
Cc: [Scheffel, Mike](#); [Zawitoski, John](#)
Subject: RE: Two requests
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 5:45:00 PM
Attachments: [AAC-ZTA18-01.doc](#)

Hello Tommy,

Here are some responses to your message below.

The first opportunity for the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC to meet and discuss ZTA 19-07 is the same day and time of the public hearing.

The AAC can discuss the ZTA 19-07, prepare recommendations, and remit them to the County Council prior to the PHED Committee Work Session.

Please note that wireless communications in the Agricultural Reserve can be problematic due to limited reception.

Please see the attached letter from the AAC when ZTA 18-01 Solar Collection Systems was being considered.

The Office of Agriculture-OAG is determining the total number of acres in the Agricultural Zone that are prime and productive USDA soil capability classifications.

The OAG and the AAC would welcome an opportunity to discuss further limited applications of community solar in the Agricultural Reserve.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks J

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CONNECT WITH The Office of Agriculture



Montgomery County Ag Reserve
93,000 acres

From: Heyboer, Tommy <Tommy.Heyboer@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 3:37 PM

To: croppcattle@yahoo.com; doug@laytonsvillemontgomery.com; Cissel, Bob <bobcissel50@gmail.com>; butlerbery@msn.com; mjam0422@yahoo.com

Cc: Criss, Jeremy <Jeremy.Criss@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Scheffel, Mike <Mike.Scheffel@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Subject: Two requests

Hello all,

I hope this email finds you well. Hans has asked me to reach out to you concerning two topics he would like to work with the farming community on over the next few weeks/months.

Wireless Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA)

As you may know, Hans, Craig, and Gabe recently introduced ZTA 19-07 that updates the zoning rules for the next-generation wireless facilities, including 5G. You can read more about the ZTA and our rationale here: <http://councilmemberriemer.com/2019/11/zoning-for-our-wireless-future.html>

We know that the advanced connectivity will have applications for farming, including remote sensors that measure soil conditions and the possibility of driverless farm vehicles, just to name a few.

- <https://www.agweek.com/business/agriculture/4660787-fcc-chairman-visits-nd-witness-marrying-agriculture-and-technology>
- <https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/industry-blog/government/2015/09/03/making-the-internet-of-farm-things-real-in-montgomery-county-md/>

We were hoping one (or more) of you would be willing to testify in support of the ZTA at the public hearing on November 19, at 7:30pm. The link to sign up for the public hearing is here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html>. You just need to navigate to the Tuesday, November 19 and click the “sign up” button next to ZTA 19-07.

Meeting on community solar in the AR zone

Hans would like to convene meeting to discuss a potential ZTA that would modestly increase the opportunity for community solar projects (less than 2MW, or 10-12 acres per project) in the AR zone. The basic idea would be to allow these projects as a limited use, subject to certain conditions, the most important condition being that no more than 2% of the AR-zoned land can be used for this purpose. We understand there are varied (and some cases passionate) views on this topic. We want to hear from the farming community before moving any further ahead. Please let me know if you are interested in meeting with Hans on this issue; we would be shooting for late November or early December.

Best regards,
Tommy

Tommy Heyboer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Montgomery County (MD) Councilmember Hans Riemer

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