

## Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee- September 15, 2020 Agenda

1. Call the Meeting to Order-Introductions:
2. Approval of the August 18, 2020 AAC meeting minutes.
3. Update on Deer Management Summer Committee- Montgomery County Delegation scheduled summer committee meetings on June 10, July 20, and September 14, 2020. **The Montgomery County Delegation developed an online Deer Management Survey that was send to the voting members of the MCFB. Please see the attached findings from the deer management survey.**  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtK529rOH6iww8O49oSBqCb9Q7tCgTIC3VR3jXEHLf6HY\\_VQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtK529rOH6iww8O49oSBqCb9Q7tCgTIC3VR3jXEHLf6HY_VQ/viewform) This is a confidential-anonymous survey with no personal information that all farmers should complete.
4. Update on the expanded Farm to Food Bank Program. This program has been working well for the 6 farmers that are participating and over 18,000 pounds of food has been delivered to Manna. The participating farmers are being paid competitive prices above the wholesale prices. We have begun meeting with additional farmers to learn about the program success for 2020 and plan for the Phase II program for 2021.
5. Update on the Solar ZTA 20-01. *Attached is the Council Staff amendments to the ZTA and an Op-Ed from Dr. Royce Hanson that MCFB and MAP have agreed to sign on.*

There are four council members that have approved amendments to the Solar ZTA 20-01 - Riemer, Hucker, Jawando, Glass. Andrew voted against the amendments. Andrew recommended excluding Class I and II Prime Capability Soils from siting solar fields and his recommendation failed. Randy Stabler, Doug Lechluder and Jeremy Criss met with Council President Sidney Katz on August 28, 2020 to see if the full County Council vote on the Solar ZTA could be delayed until after the Pandemic when a traditional public process would take place. There is a second meeting scheduled for September 18, 2020. *Please see that attached notes from the August 28, 2020 meeting.*

Additional amendments to the Solar ZTA are as follows- Exclude Class II prime soils for siting solar fields, Allow concrete footers for the support beams to encourage Agri-voltaic farming, Clarify if more than one 2MW solar field can be installed on large farm properties, Require the solar industry to make payments in lieu of taxes that will fund farmland preservation programs.

6. Kelly Nichols has been selected as the new Faculty Tenured Agriculture and Horticulture Extension Educator for the Central MD Cluster and she will be assigned to the Montgomery County UM-Extension office.
7. 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.
8. The next meeting of the AAC is October 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 15, 2020  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-Rescheduled to September 18, 2020  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- October 6, 2020  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-October 9, 2020  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-October 13, 2020  
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 20, 2020