

# **Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board**

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Attendance: John Fendrick, Margaret Giblin, Chuck Gingrich

Staff: Mike Scheffel

Guests: Jenifer Magliato – owner MAG Farm, LLC

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Introduction of guests.

1. Approval of September meeting minutes

Giblin made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, Fendrick seconded, motion passed.

2. AEP Easement Program

a. Julio Ortiz (Haney Farm – 24711 Burnt Hill Rd) inspection

Scheffel informed the Board of an inspection that took place at the above property. Mr. Ortiz purchased the farm in June and is in the process of cleaning the farm up. He has 5 cattle currently on the farm and is in conversation with a potential tenant farmer to rent out the crop ground. Scheffel told the Board Mr. Ortiz has a landscape contracting business at his home on Gue Rd. Scheffel told Mr. Ortiz that a landscape contracting business would not be allowed on a farm encumbered by an AEP easement.

3. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

a. FY22 Ag Transfer Tax Reporting

Scheffel submitted the reporting form to MDA and MDP prior to the deadline with the assistance from the County DOF.

b. Recertification Report Submitted

The five year recertification report was submitted to MDA and MDP, Scheffel believes the report will be approved and awaits the plan to go before the full MALPF board.

- c. Rob Baker – farm market approved

Scheffel and Rob Baker went before the MALPF board at their September meeting. The MALPF board asked several questions related to the County’s zoning code, Scheffel answered them. After the questions the MALPF board approved the farm market request for Rob.

#### 4. RLP Easement Program

- a. FY20 Grant zeroed out

The remaining FY20 grant funds were used to purchase an easement from MCB Farm, LLC on September 28.

#### 5. Legislative activities

- a. OLO – TDR/BLT Discussion

The OAG continues to meet with OLO and MNCPPC staff to discuss the report. We believe the report will discuss how the use of TDRs and BLTs have been deemphasized.

- b. Bill 40-21 Septic Tank pump out, public hearing 10/24 T&E

The Board has previously remitted comment on this bill for the public hearing in November 2021. Scheffel reviewed the bill and asked if the Board felt another letter should be sent to council. The Board agreed, Scheffel would help prepare a letter.

- c. RRFMP Update public hearing, 11/17

Scheffel review what the Board has previously discussed about the master plan update. Once Scheffel receives anything from MNCPPC staff to review, the Board will know.

- d. Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads

The OAG had been following this bill and until the 9/20/2022 public hearing, there was no concern. Following the public hearing, the OAG found the RRAC was proposing changes to the membership composition of the RRAC – adding two at large members and removing the income requirement for farmer members.

The Board asked Scheffel to draft a letter to remit to the Council regarding these proposed changes. The Board felt the voice of the farmer should not be reduced and knew of bona fide farmers that applied for the RRAC but were not selected as a member.

e. Bill 13-22 – Building Decarbonization

The OAG received wording from Council staff that ag uses would be exempted from this bill. The OAG will work with Council staff to ensure the wording makes it into the T&E work session packet.

6. Other business

a.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.