

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 13, 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 7:05 pm.

Introduction of guests.

1. Approval of August meeting minutes

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

2. AEP Easement Program

- a. Kirsch

Scheffel updated the Board on the easement inspection. Scheffel toured the farm with Wayne Cullen and found no resource concerns. The Board has previously addressed the two existing tenant structures on the farm and Scheffel wanted to memorialize those discussions with Mr. Cullen. During the inspection, Scheffel shared his understanding of the situation with Mr. Cullen – that the Board will allow the tenant structures to be occupied as long as the operation continues. Once the goat cheese operation ceases, so does the ability to have tenants occupying the houses. Mr. Cullen confirmed that was his understanding as well.

The next item Scheffel shared with the Board was the accessory solar installation on the farm. The solar installation is an accessory one and was installed over the course of several years beginning in 2010. It was permitted by DPS and the panels provide power for the cheese making operation and the house. Scheffel is proposing a similar course of action to the panels that the board took on the tenant structures. If and when the cheese making goes away, the solar installation must be resized to meet the new energy demand on the property.

3. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

- a. FY23 Applications

The FY23 applications were submitted to MALPF and all details have been completed.

b. Recertification – Due October 1

Scheffel told the Board the County’s recertification was due to the state by October 1. This is the 5-year recertification, the last recertification report was submitted to the state was for FY15-FY18.

4. RLP Easement Program

a. IWLA – Lead Reclamation Project

The IWLA has continued to get their necessary permits and are working with MDE, DPS, MNCPPC, and the SCD to ensure this project will work.

b. MAG Ag LLC, Potomac Edison ROW proposal

Jennifer Magliato, one of the principals of MAG Ag LLC, introduced herself and told the Board about the farm. She shared with the Board what PE provided for a drawing and contract. The Board reviewed the drawings and the contract, saw no issues with power being brought to the farm for the sole use of the farm.

Fendrick made a motion to allow the ROW as proposed, Gingrich seconded the motion and it passed.

c. FY22 Grant Update

Scheffel told the Board he is still awaiting an update from the landowner on when to begin the process for requesting payment.

5. Legislative activities

a. OLO Report on TDRs/BLTs

Scheffel updated the Board on the status of the report. He expects to receive a draft copy of the report in the coming months and will share it with the Board. We will have an opportunity to provide comment on the draft, Scheffel and Jeremy Criss are still trying to finalize details on acres/TDRs with MNCPPC.

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

Scheffel updated the Board on bill 40-21, legislation on which the Board has previously provided comment. With the bill being scheduled for a committee hearing, it is important for the Board to reiterate its stance that the bill as written is heavy handed and the County should take an educational approach rather than a penalizing approach.

6. Other business

a. SCD Cooperator of the Year Dinner – Windridge Winery

Scheffel told the Board the dinner is scheduled for September 19th at the Winery, the dinners normally begin around 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.