

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Board: Michael Jamison, Margaret Giblin, Chuck Gingrich, Nick Deluca

Staff: Mike Scheffel, Mike Weyand

Guests: Randy Stabler, Marc Potash, Steven Fistere, Dale Tibbitts, Jake Adler

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

1. Introduction of Guests
2. Approval of January meeting minutes

Jamison motioned to accept the minutes; Margaret seconded, and the motion carried.

3. AEP/BLT Easement Program

- a. Fistere Farm – request for a family burial site.

The property, located on Partnership Road in Poolesville, is under a County preservation easement, which does not outright prohibit a family burial site. Scheffel indicated that the family would need to work with the Maryland Office of Cemetery Oversight and apply for a building permit from DPS. Jamison made a motion to approve as proposed, Margaret seconded, and the motion carried. Mike Weyand will follow up with a board approval letter to the Fistere Family.

- b. Potash (Trippy Goat) – request for a distillery/tasting room.

Scheffel gave a brief overview of the project. As proposed, the project would require a commercial building permit, including stormwater management plans, sediment and erosion control, and forest conservation. Chair Jamison noted that if any changes are made to the proposed plan, you must notify the Office of Agriculture (OAG) to review. Jamison made a motion to approve as proposed, Margaret seconded, and the motion carried. Mike Weyand will follow up with a board approval letter to Trippy Goat Farm.

4. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

- a. FY23 Applicants – update

The OAG continues to work with the FY23 applicant, who still needs to go to settlement.

b. FY24 Applicants – update

The State is expected to have limited funds for FY25. MALPF is exploring combining two fiscal years' worth of funding into one application period.

5. RLP Easement Program

a. FY23 grant – update

Terms of the proposed RLP easement are currently being negotiated.

6. Legislative activities

a. [ZTA 23-08](#) – TDR and Cemetery

ZTA 23-08 would allow a property owner in the AR zone to expand a cemetery onto land with a TDR. The amendment limits the size of any cemetery's expansion to 10 acres. The County Council adopted the ZTA on February 6, 2024.

b. [ZTA 23-09](#) – Incidental outdoor stays, planning board recommendations.

ZTA 23-09 would allow overnight stays on farms in the AR zone that also have accessory agricultural education and tourism activities conducted as a part of the farm's regular operations. The proposed bill is on hold until June pending revisions.

c. Visit Montgomery meeting 1/30/2024

Visit Montgomery was awarded a grant to explore marketing for ag tourism and ag businesses in the ag preserve. Discussions about how to advertise the County's Agricultural Reserve were held at the January meeting. Further conversations about branding and marketing for agritourism businesses in the county will be held during a second stakeholder meeting on February 28.

7. Other business

- a. Dr. Mike Weyand – began 2/12 as Farmland Preservation Administrator
- b. AAC and APAB new members recommended to the CE.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.