



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 21, 2012

Francoise Carrier, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland
20910

Dear Madam Chair:

RE: August 3, 2012 Letter from Robert Jamison-Forest
Conservation Mitigation on Septic Areas

On August 21, 2012, the Agricultural Advisory Committee discussed the above mentioned letter surrounding the application of Forest Conservation Mitigation on Septic Areas. On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee, AAC please accept this letter as our recommendation surrounding this issue and our request for the Planning Board to adopt a change in policy for how Forest Conservation Mitigation-Calculation is applied to septic areas governed by a Declaration of Intent to farm.

It is our understanding the Planning Board will be reviewing Plan No. 720110100 that is located on Club Hollow Road in Poolesville and the applicant is Robert Jamison. Mr. Jamison copied the Agricultural Advisory Committee on his August 3, 2012 outlining the issue. Mr. Jamison said that the Forest Mitigation calculation for meeting the requirements for Forest Conservation has been applied to the septic area in addition to the location of the proposed dwelling. The copy of the plat provided shows the septic area that was approved by the County Department of Permitting Services as a deep trench septic system. Mr. Jamison said the Declaration of Intent to farm the property includes the septic area because normal agronomy practices can be conducted on the farmland above a deep trench septic system. The AAC questions your policy of treating septic areas for the purposes of Forest Mitigation when the septic area will continue in farming. We believe a sand mound septic system should be included within the calculation for Forest Mitigation because a sand mound septic system prohibits future agricultural activities. However, the AAC further believes that a deep trench septic system where the land can continue to be farmed in accordance with the Declaration of Intent should not be included in the Forest Mitigation calculation.

Thank you for considering the views of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer

David Weitzer, Chairman

Cc: Robert Jamison