

## Howard County Solar Task Force Meeting – 5/5/2020

### Minutes and Action Items

#### Attendees

Members: Amy Gowan; Cathy Hudson; Corey Ramsden; Dan Jacobs; Dani Phillips; Franny Yuhas; James Zoller; Joy Levy; Keith Ohlinger; Kelly Hensing; Kevin Lucas

Guests: Ginny Rogers (DNR), Patrick Boddicker (Howard County Office of Community Sustainability), Geoff Goins (Howard County Chief of Zoning), Mary Kendall (Howard County Deputy Director for Planning and Zoning), Julie Constantino (Howard County Office of Community Sustainability), Matt Hoover (Howard County Office of Community Sustainability); Stefano Ratti (Chaberton Energy)

#### Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 4/21/2020 were approved with amended attendees and a minor modification to add parking lot canopies along with rooftop solar to be allowed in any zoning district.

#### Rescheduling of Public Hearing

- The Solar Task Force Public Hearing has been scheduled for Thursday May 28, 2020 from 7-9pm.

#### Presentations

Ginny Rogers from the Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program discussed the state's Pollinator Program. In 2015, legislation passed asking for regulations around pollinators under solar. DNR's Pollinator Program has developed a draft solar scorecard to certify pollinator habitats under solar for solar facilities greater than 1 acre. The program promotes proper site preparation and maintenance, planting under the solar panels, increased panel height to support to support the plantings, education and signage to promote the pollinator habitat, and avoiding the use of pesticides. At this time, submission of a plan under this program would be voluntary. An on-site inspection would be conducted, as well as a 2 year renewal inspection. The state is still working on finalizing the scorecard, certifying inspectors, and developing a reinspection scorecard. They would also like to work on pilot projects with universities. It was suggested that the state publish certified sites, once this becomes applicable. The state is open to this idea, and will also look further into new invasive species and how to handle those (in the context of pollinator habitat certification).

#### Discussion

The Task Force briefly discussed the Task Force recommendations, specifically questions 5-8. A subgroup was formed to further discuss recommended updates to the zoning regulations.

#### Action Items

- Ginny Rogers to send the pollinator-friendly regulation and the draft Solar Score Card to the Task Force.
- A zoning subgroup will meet to further discuss zoning recommendations.