

Howard County Solar Task Force Meeting – 6/23/2020

Minutes and Action Items

Attendees

Members: Amy Gowan; Cathy Hudson; Corey Ramsden; Dani Phillips; Franny Yuhas; James Zoller; Joy Levy; Keith Ohlinger

Guests: Mary Kendall; Patrick Boddicker

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for 6/16/2020 were approved.

Presentations

There were no formal presentations at this meeting.

Discussion

The Task Force discussed the final product to be presented to the County Council and County Executive, which will need to be finalized by July 1st.

The Task Force then continued discussions on recommendations/answers to questions 4-6 of those originally posed to the Task Force. On Question 4, Amy Gowan shared the current legislation governing conditional use permits, and the Task Force discussed recommended updates and items for consideration.

On Question 5, the discussion focused on circumstances in which solar could be installed on agricultural preservation land without a conditional use permit. All agreed that accessory use rooftop solar should be allowed without a conditional use permit. Special attention was paid to ground-mounted systems, aggregated net-metering, and how to ensure the intentions of the recommendations are upheld.

On Question 6, members were in agreement that there should be a requirement for some kind of agricultural practice under or directly adjacent to the solar installation on Ag Pres land (such as pollinator habitats, sheep grazing, or agrivoltaics), and that there should be multiple options available to developers.

Action Items

None