



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0700
www.howardcountymd.gov FAX 410-313-3390 TDD 410-313-2323

**HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION BOARD (APB)
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (APAB)**

August 24, 2020

Attendance:

Board Members: Mickey Day (Chair)
Cathy Hudson
Ann Jones (Vice Chair)
Jamie Brown
Abby Gibbon

Staff: James Zoller, Executive Secretary/Agricultural Coordinator (OCS)
Joy Levy, Program Administrator, (ALPP)
Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division
Matthew Hoover, Administrative Aide, (OCS)
Mary Kendall, Deputy Director, (DPZ)

Guest: Susan Scheidt
Chuck Sharp
Frances Yuhas
R. Allan Ewing

Action Items

1) Approval of minutes from the meeting on July 27, 2020

No changes or corrections. Ms. Hudson motioned to approve, and Ms. Jones seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the Meeting Minutes from 7/27/20.

2) Request for Recommendation on Easement Acquisition, Sharp property; 24.3 acres (APB)

Ms. Levy reviewed the [staff report](#) with the Board. The request comes from the contract purchaser Allan Sharp who is the son of the contract seller Chuck and Denise Sharp. The Sharps are applying to bring the property into the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP).

Ms. Levy reviewed some key points of the scoring sheet and the other documents included with the Staff Report. She reviewed each number and explained the reasoning of why the points were recommended. The

Staff recommendation is that the application meets all eligibility for acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Day reviewed the Draft of the Sharp's Agricultural Preservation Board Points section of the scoring sheet that could be awarded and reviewed Ms. Levy's recommendations. For one through four of this section there were no comments or recommended changes.

The board reviewed number five which is the APB discretionary points for a maximum of 10 points. Mr. Brown motioned to give the Sharps 10 points for number five of the discretionary points. It was seconded by Ms. Jones. All members in attendance approved the motion to add the 10 discretionary points. The motion passed.

Mr. Brown motioned to accept the price formula worksheet scoring for the entire property. Ms. Jones seconded the motion and all members in attendance approved the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Levy advised the Board and the Sharps of the next steps for the acquisition request.

Discussion Items

1) Continue Discussion on Solar Task Force Recommendations ([Link](#)) and the ALPB Solar Policy ([Link](#))

The Board was advised that it has not gone to the County Council yet and there has been no feedback from the County Executive or the County Council.

Mr. Zoller pulled up the Solar Task Force recommendations and reviewed the recommendations that pertained to the APB. The recommendations that were reviewed were having a preliminary review of the Commercial Solar Facility plans with the APB, making the APB policy be quantitative as well as qualitative, that the APB policy recognizes that there are three types of ground mounts and that the APB CSF policy be realistic. It also stated in the recommendations that the policy supports the intent of the Agricultural Preservation Easement which the Board felt was an important aspect of the recommendations. The Board also discussed the current steps for the process of a Commercial Solar Facilities request because they were trying to determine how a preliminary review would fit in the process.

There was also a discussion about if APB didn't recommend approval could the request still move on to the next step. It was advised that the request still could move on to the next step. The Board was advised that the APB review is for advisory comments and a recommendation.

It was asked if the Board could receive an update on the administrations plans to lessen the pressure of Community Solar on Agricultural Preservation Land, because the Solar Task Force made the recommendation to open other areas for these projects. It was also asked if Mr. Feldmark, the Office of Community Sustainability Director, could attend an APB meeting.

2) Program Updates

There are other ALPP requests that are currently being reviewed.

DPZ has a list of uncommitted properties that qualify for the ALPP and they are going to mail out a letter informing them about the program.

The most recent IPA maturation date for the installment purchase agreements was on August 15, 2020.

The County Executive has been doing some marketing of Howard County farms on social media along with help from OCS and EDA.

There is going to be pilot program on increasing deer harvesting in Howard County.

Public Testimony

Susan Scheidt – Paternal Gift Farm

Ms. Scheidt provided background of her family history and their history of their farm operations in Howard County. She is suggesting that the Board review Agricultural Preservation in Cluster Zoning open space areas for the ALPP. ([Letter](#))

Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ms. Jones. All members in attendance approved the adjourning of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.