



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Department of Development Review & Planning

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director
Michael L. Wilkins, Director

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, September 23rd, 2019

Approved 10/28/2019

Members Present: Samuel Tressler, III, Chair; Dick Bittner, Vice Chair; Paul Spurrier, Andrew Toms, Eric Troxell

Staff Present: Anne Bradley, Program Administrator; Shannon O'Neil, Planner I

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tressler at 7:01 p.m.

I. Minutes

A. Minutes from July 22, 2019

Staff presented the minutes from the July 22, 2019 meeting for approval. Vice Chair Bittner made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chair Tressler and Mr. Spurrier abstaining because they were not present at the meeting.

Vote: **Yea 3** **Nay 0** **Abstain 2**

B. Minutes from September 9, 2019

Staff presented the minutes from the September 9, 2019 joint meeting with the Forestry Board for approval. Mr. Spurrier made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Toms seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: **Yea 5** **Nay 0** **Abstain 0**

II. MALPF

A. Beall (#10-17-01) Family Lots Requests

Staff presented a request from Harold and Bobbye Beall for two 1-2 acre family lots on their 124-acre MALPF easement. One lot is an owner's lot for Harold and Bobbye and the second lot request is for their son, Travis Beall.

Mr. Toms made a motion to approve the request for a 1-2ac owner's lot for Harold and Bobbye Beall and a 1-2ac child's lot for their son Travis Beall. Vice Chair Bittner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: **Yea 5** **Nay 0**

B. SMC Real Estate Holdings LLC (#10-22-84-11e) Ag. Subdivision Request

Staff presented a request from SMC Real Estate Holdings LLC to execute a 100-acre agricultural subdivision on their 446-acre property. The Board discussed that the request appeared in accordance with MALPF policy, however they expressed concerns over fragmenting a large farm and the possibility of future ag subdivision requests.

Vice Chair Bittner made a motion to approve the request to allow the 100-acre agricultural subdivision. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 to 1, with Mr. Toms voting Nay.

Vote: Yea 4 Nay 1

C. Certification Report

Anne Bradley presented the FY18-19 Annual Certification Report. Frederick County was recertified through July 1, 2021. Certification reports are due every two years during this time period. The Board applauded Mrs. Bradley for the report. They feel that it is accurate and thorough.

Mr. Toms made a motion to approve the Annual Certification Report. Mr. Spurrier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vote: Yea 5 Nay 0

III. Program Status Reports

A. MALPF

Staff reported that MALPF is ordering appraisals for the FY20 applicants and hope to have offers out by early 2020.

B. IPP

Staff reported that 27 applications were received for the FY2020 easement cycle.

C. MARBIDCO Next Generation

Staff reported that only 1 of 8 applicants to the Critical Farms program qualified for the Next Gen program because of differences in program eligibility criteria.

D. Rural Legacy

Staff let the Board know that two properties will go to settlement soon. Staff also reported that the FY20 grant should be announced sometime in October.

E. CREP

Staff reported that over 40 people are in line for a CREP easement; all are at varying stages of the process.

F. Future of Farming

The Board discussed the future of farming in Frederick County. They raised questions such as how to keep land affordable for young farmers and startups.

Chair Tressler adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.