



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, July 26, 2021
Draft 8/17/2021

WebEx Meeting

Members Present: Samuel Tressler, III, Chair; Dick Bittner, Vice Chair; Paul Spurrier, Andrew Toms, (joined at 7:00 pm)
The meeting was called to order by Chair Tressler at 7:01 p.m.

Staff Present: Anne Bradley, Program Administrator; Beth Ahalt, Planner I

I. Minutes

A. Minutes from May 24, 2021

Staff presented minutes from 05/24/2021 for review and approval.

Chair Tressler made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2021. The minutes were approved by consensus.

II. MALPF

A. FY 22 Critical Farms Applications

Beth Ahalt presented the nine applications that applied to the Critical Farms program. This information included: name(s) of landowner(s), acreage, property location(s), and farm operations, as well as the ranking points. Staff recommended to approve the first six (6) application properties, because there was a clear break in points (21.68) between applications 6-7.

Vice Chair Bittner made the motion to adopt the staff recommendation of the first 6 Critical Farms applications to move on to appraisal. Andrew Toms seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yea 3** **Nay 1** **Not Present 1**

B. Brandenburg Child's Lot Requests

Anne Bradley presented to the board a request from Dwight Brandenburg and Teresa Shafer, to request two lots on their parent's farm property that is in a MALPF easement. The farm has Class II soils, and the location of the lot



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requests are to be next to each other along Arnoldtown Road at the edge of a field.

Vice Chair Bittner made a motion to approve the lot requests and Eric Troxell seconded the motion.

Vote: **Yea 4** **Nay 0** **Absent 1**

C. Boutelle Family Farm, LLC Dwelling Relocation

Anne Bradley presented to the board a request from Boutelle Family Farm, LLC for approval to relocate three preexisting dwellings that existed at the time of easement settlement. The applicant wants to reconfigure four smaller parcels in to three larger parcels, which could better sustain an individual farm operation. The new parcel sizes would be 51 acres, 73 acres, and 80 acres, over 6.75 acres, 2.6 acres, 28.6 acres. Staff feels that the dwelling relocations will not negatively affect the agricultural operation of this property, or properties, if they have new separate owners.

Chair Tressler made a motion to approve the relocation of the dwelling(s). Mr. Bittner seconded the motion.

Vote: **Approved by Consensus.**

D. MARBIDCO Next Generation and SANG

Anne Bradley presented to the Board staff's concerns regarding two new MARBIDCO programs, Next Generation and SANG. Staff presented to the board how both programs work, and what qualifications the landowner must have to be able to utilize these programs. Staff has concerns with the programs because they receive multiple inquiries a week, and it takes a lot of staff's time to research the properties and give the public the best answer. Staff is requesting feedback from the Ag Preservation Advisory Board to see what can be done about the influx of SANG and Next Generation applications, and not have an increase of lesser quality farms apply to the MALPF program. The Ag Preservation Advisory Board suggested that we talk with Steve McHenry and see what he says regarding the programs, and to discuss with the board our findings at our next meeting.



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III. IPP

A. 2020 IPP Cycle

Anne Bradley informed the board that the Ag Preservation team is still playing catch up from the FY 2019 and FY 2020 IPP cycles. Interest from landowners has been concerning for this program. Interest Rates are still incredibly low, so landowners are not interested in the tax free bond amount. Also, staff was not allowed to meet with members of the public during the pandemic, so the program was not marketed as well as it had been in years past. 37 MALPF applications had to be cut for FY22, so staff is hoping that some land owners will take interest in the IPP program.

IV. Program Status Reports

A. Rural Legacy

One project for this cycle is in the Carrollton Manor Region, but we have not heard back from that landowner to accept the offer. The Ag Board suggested to move on from that offer if we have not heard back in one week.

Chair Tressler adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.