



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday March 7, 2022

WebEx Meeting

Members Present: Samuel Tressler, III, Chair; Dick Bittner, Vice Chair; Andrew Toms and Paul Spurrier (joined at 7:23pm)

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

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

I. Minutes

A. Minutes from November 22, 2021

Staff presented minutes from 11/22/2021 for review and approval.

B. Minutes from January 24, 2022

Vice Chair Bittner made a motion to approve the minutes from November 22, 2021, and January 24, 2022. Paul Spurrier seconded the motion.

MALPF

A. Seiss Special Occasion Events Venue

Anne Bradley presented the request for Special Occasion/ Events Venue on the Seiss property under a Maryland Agriculture Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easement. The easement property was purchased from Taylor and Brandon Huffman in December of 2021. This request falls under HB 1351, to allow the use for Special Occasion/ Events Venue on MALPF easements. Before this bill was passed, no use of this nature was allowed on MALPF easements. In order for this request to be sent for additional approval to the MALPF board, a favorable opinion by the Frederick County Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board must be rendered. One of the requirements for approval of a Special Occasion/ Events Venue on a MALPF easement property is for the applicants to be a full- time farmer requirement, meaning the applicant has a majority of their income derived from farming during the past three years. Staff requested the applicant provide 3 years of tax returns showing this requirement. The applicant declined to do so. Another requirement is that the special occasion events venue will not interfere with the agricultural use of the easement. Agriculture will not be the primary use of the barn.

Staff



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recommended denial of the requested use based on the full-time farmer status of the applicant, as well as having the barn not be in agricultural use.

Eric Troxell asked what the definition of a full-time farmer was, and Andres Toms asked if we could proceed to make a decision without the applicant's income.

The applicants, Bradley and Amber Seiss stated that they did not know what the definition of a full-time farmer was.

Dick Bittner made a motion to deny Staff's request and moves to support the applicants request for a Special Occasion/Event venue on their MALPF easement. Eric Troxell seconded the motion

4 Yay

0 Nay

1 Abstain

II. Program Status Reports

- A. MALPF Anne presented that staff is working getting FY 21 MALPF applicants to settlement on a permanent easement, and we are collecting applications to the FY 23 cycle.
- B. Critical Farms Anne presented that the next round for the Critical Farms program is June 1, 2022.
- C. MARBIDCO Next Generation Anne presented that staff has received one application to this program for the month of February and there is a lot of interest in the program.
- D. Rural Legacy Anne Bradley presented that Frederick County received a \$1,500,000 grant for this application cycle and there is still a lot of interest in this program.
- E. CREP Anne Bradley presented that there is still a lot of interest in this program and that the current amount per acre is still at \$5,500.
- F. Inspections Update Beth Ahalt presented that staff has been working on inspections and are projected to be completed with all of the MALPF/FRPP inspections by the end of April.
- G. Other Violation Updates Beth Ahalt presented that staff has been working with the Zoning Department to rectify 7 violations on IPP easement properties.



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Chair Tressler adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

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