

Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agenda
October 19, 2021

1. Call the Meeting to Order-Introductions:
2. Approval of the September 21, 2021, AAC meeting minutes.
3. Proposed Acquisition by County Parks of the Broad Run Creek Farm II LLC. *Please see attached letter from the AAC Chair to the County Executive*
4. Update on the Ag Land Preservation CIP and meetings with the CE.
5. Follow up on the October 19, 2021, meeting on Deer Management.
6. Meeting with the Public Service Commission on October 20, 2021, Ag Reserve Solar.
7. Update on the Sugarloaf Citizens Association-smaller deliveries of Leafgro.
8. The Department of Environmental Protection Legislative Proposals-

Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems-*County residents that live in areas without public water and sewer were mailed the DEP post card to expand awareness to extend the life of their septic systems by pumping out their septic tanks.* The proposed legislation has still not been introduced. The enforcement and penalties provision on lines 158-170 will be deleted entirely as stated by the DEP Director “We think we can make significant progress without that provision.”

Introduction of Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability-Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards – Amendments to Chapter 18 Environmental Sustainability. There was a public hearing on July 20, 2021, and several agricultural organizations provided letters outlining that all existing and new agricultural buildings should be exempt from this Bill 16-21.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/OnDemand/testimony/20210720/item5.html>

The Director of DEP provided OAG with a list of equestrian facilities in the County with buildings 25,000 square feet in size or larger to assess the energy being used for lighting, heating, and air conditioning, etc.

Electric Lawn Care – The DEP has now proposed a more limited bill that will prohibit the use and sale of gasoline leaf blowers. The broader Electric Lawn Care bill will be delayed.

9. MD Farm Bureau and MCFB Farmside Chats:

Ag Reserve Solar - Wednesday, October 6th at 9 AM - Rockhill Orchard *Please There was a good turnout of folks that attended and there are two follow up meeting that will be helpful to better understand how Solar in the Agricultural Reserve can work. October 20, 2021 meeting with representatives from the Public Service Commission and November 3, 2021 with representatives from the Solar companies.*

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Deer Management Meeting-October 19, 2021

Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 19, 2021

Meeting with the Public Service Commission-October 20, 2021

Bill 5-21-GO & PHED Committee-October 28, 2021

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- November 2, 2021

Meeting with Solar Company representatives-November 3, 2021

Annual MCFB Banquet-November 9, 2021

Montgomery Soil Conservation District-November 9, 2021

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-November 12, 2021