



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2018

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)
FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture
SUBJECT: April 17, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **April 17, 2018 at the Holy Cross Germantown Hospital 19801 Observation Drive Room 1507/1508 Germantown, MD 20876 at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.
The draft minutes from the February 20, 2017 AAC are also attached.
The March 20, 2018 meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.

e:aacApril(aac18)



Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
April 17, 2018

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions.
2. Approval of the February 20, 2018 AAC Meeting Minutes. The March 20, 2018 meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm.
3. The County Council conducted a public hearing on ZTA 18-01 Solar Collection System that impacts all zones in the County. It proposes 2-megawatt community solar in almost all zones with exception to Agricultural Zone. Accessory Solar (120% of onsite energy consumption) will continue to be allowed in the Agricultural Reserve-AR zone. The AAC submitted a letter in support of the ZTA 18-01 and recommended that ground mounted solar installations should NOT be located on prime and productive soils. During the public hearing the County Council discussed adding the Agricultural Reserve-AR zone for community solar.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14797&meta_id=151720
4. The County Council has introduced ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production-Standards. The public hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2018.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14831&meta_id=152429
5. The County Council Introduced ZTA 18-04 proposed by the County Executive-Non-Conforming uses in place prior to October 2014 can be expanded. The public hearing is scheduled for May 15, 2018.
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14831&meta_id=152431
6. Follow up on the DNR proposed changes to the 2018-2019 hunting regulations. The County Council, AAC, MAP, and the MSCD forwarded letters to the DNR recommending that Montgomery County be designated as a Suburban Deer Archery Zone and exempt from the proposed reductions in bag limits for both antlered and antlerless deer.
7. There have been four Agritourism Study Advisory Committee meetings (November 29, 2017, January 17, 2018, February 21, 2018 and April 2, 2018). The ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production-Standards will be discussed at the April 18, 2018 meeting. This ZTA 18-03 will replace a winery and insert a new use that encompasses all types of farm alcohol production. The Agritourism Advisory Committee has discussed many ideas related to events and activities on farms, but they have no agreements on specific recommendations. The proposed ZTA 18-03 may represent one area where the Committee can agree on specific standards and events conducted as part of farm alcohol production.
8. State Bills Update: The HB 1141 (Statewide Bill) passed and it allows agricultural buildings to be used for agritourism for occupancies of less than 50 people. The legislation becomes effective on October 1, 2018. The law will require the DPS to amend Chapter 8

of the building code. The HB 252 also passed and it defines Agritourism at the state level. The HB 396 Agricultural Land Preservation fee did not receive a favorable vote. Delegate Luedtke may decide to introduce the bill next year a local bill specific to Montgomery County. The HB 620 County Agricultural Land Preservation Programs Recertification and Remittance of Unexpended Funds-Extensions, passed the 2018 Maryland Legislative session.

9. Promotion of Gleaning food to be donated to people in need with the benefits of the Tax Credit for donating food. The following farmers have indicated they will work with Community Food Rescue to donate food this season. Lewis Orchard and Red Wiggler Community Farm. <http://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2017/09/11/food-donation-tax-credit-pilot-program-now-in-effect-southern-maryland-farmers-eligible-for-up-to-5000-state-tax-credit/>
10. We are working to schedule an event in mid July 2018 for celebrate the 50th Anniversary and Recognition of Conservation Tillage including no till farming in the County. The event will consist of a tour of farms in the morning with a luncheon and short program at the County Agricultural Fair. The OAG is looking for funding sponsors for the luncheon. Would the MSCD be willing to provide \$500 that would go towards the cost of the food for the luncheon.
11. We received good news from the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation regarding the replacement of the Zion Road bridge. The DOT recommends that a new two-lane bridge will replace the existing one lane bridge. Richard Dorsey, Chief of DOT Highway Services called Jeremy Criss to specifically request that when this issue is scheduled for discussion before the County Council the DOT respectfully requests that farmers and leaders of agricultural organizations need to attend to support County DOT.
12. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is May 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The meeting location is still pending.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-April 13, 2018@ 9:00am
Ag Advisory Committee-April 17, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Holy Cross Germantown Hospital
Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-April 18, 2018 @ 6:00pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Supervisors-May 1, 2018@ 7:00pm
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-May 8, 2018 @7:00pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-May 11, 2018@ 9:00am