



**OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE**

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Jeremy V. Criss  
*Director*

**MEMORANDUM**

March 16, 2018

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)  
**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Director  
Office of Agriculture  
**SUBJECT:** March 20, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **March 20, 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 meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

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:aacMarch(aac18)



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**March 20, 2018**

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions.
2. Approval of the February 20, 2018 AAC Meeting Minutes.
3. The OHR completed the reclassification interviews for James Harne and Shelly Ingram. Once the reclassification recommendations are finalized this will complete the OAG reclassification process that we started in the spring of 2017.
4. The County Council introduced ZTA 18-01 Solar Collection System that impacts all zones in the County. It proposed community solar in almost all zones with exception to Agricultural Zone. Accessory Solar will continue to be allowed in the Agricultural Reserve-AR zone.  
[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=169&clip\\_id=14548&meta\\_id=149112](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14548&meta_id=149112)
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. There have been three Agritourism Study Advisory Committee meetings (November 29, 2017, January 17, 2018 and February 21, 2018). Robert Butz presented during the February meeting that Windridge farm lost money in 2017 on their grain operation. Robert said that Windridge is proposing a new vineyard with winery and tasting room because Robert believes he can be profitable growing grapes rather than grain. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2018. The County Council supports HB 1141 (Statewide Bill) allowing agricultural buildings to be used for agritourism for occupancies of less than 50 people. The MACO recommends the HB 1141 should contain a provision for counties discretion to “opt out”.
8. Promotion of Gleaning food to be donated to people in need with the benefits of the Tax Credit for donating food. <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/>
9. Zoning Text Amendment proposed by the County Executive-Non-Conforming uses in place prior to October 2014 can be expanded.

10. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is April 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Holy Cross Germantown Hospital in room 1507/1508 Germantown, MD. 20876.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

National Agriculture Day-Tuesday March 20, 2018

Agricultural Advisory Committee-March 20, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-March 21, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Annual Weed Control Committee meeting-March 26, 2018 @ 9:30 am

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Supervisors-April 3, 2018@ 7:00pm

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-April 3, 2018@ 9:00am

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-April 10, 2018 @7:00pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee-April 17, 2018 @ 7:00pm