



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM

July 3, 2024

TO: Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB)

FROM: Mike Weyand, Business Development Specialist
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: **Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Meeting, July 9, 2024**

Please be advised that the next scheduled APAB meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm. **The Board will meet virtually using Microsoft Teams.** Please find the agenda attached with other supporting documentation for the meeting.

If you have questions or cannot make the meeting, please email me at michael.weyand@montgomerycountymd.gov.

*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



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Agenda

July 9, 2024

7:00 p.m.

1. Introductions
 - a. Tom Hoffman – New Board Member
2. Approval of Minutes
3. AEP/BLT/TDR Easements
 - a. Easement Overview
4. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easements
 - a. FY23 Applicants
 - b. FY24 Applicants
 - c. FY25/FY26 Applicants
5. Rural Legacy Program (RLP) Easements
 - a. MDR Full Circle LLC & Wyndham Oaks - 19301 Bucklodge Rd. Boyds
 - b. FY23 Grants
6. Easement Monitoring & Inspections
 - a. End of Year Report
7. Legislative Activities
 - a. ZTA 24-02 Agricultural and Rural Zones – Campground
8. Other Business
 - a. Chaberton Sugarloaf Solar Project
 - b. Americans For Family Farmers Testimony
 - c. [Open Meetings Act Training](#)
 - d. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Below is a map of Wyndham Oaks: 19301 Bucklodge Rd. Boyds, MD. In the upper right corner (inside the red box) are the 13 acres that we lease from MDR Full Circle LLC. As shown in the photo, this area has three fenced pastures. To protect the horses from the elements in summer and winter, we would like to put two or three run-ins on this property to provide shade and cover.

These will be mainly post and roof structures- there may be one partial side but that decision has not be finalized as the woods in this area provide a natural windbreak. It also may depend on structural stability. If we use two structures, they will be approximately 30 ft x 40 ft in size, straddling each side of the fence to provide cover to two fields with one structure. If we use three structures, there will be one in each pasture.

We would like to include electricity in each so that we can use a heated auto waterer.



Is the addition of these structures acceptable under the land preservation agreement that the LLC signed? If so, is electric acceptable?

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Dear County Government Officials, Departments and Planning Commission,

We strongly request and support various Montgomery County representatives/commission/departments' robust defense of County zoning code and the master plan for the preservation of agriculture in the upcoming PSC proceedings:

PSC Case No. 9726, Chaberton Sugarloaf

Chaberton Solar Ramier, LLC - Case No. 9733

To be clear, our groups continue to be supportive of advancing solar in the Reserve. A significant amount of transparent effort over months from a broad array of stakeholders, including local government, climate change organizations, and solar industry, went into the crafting of a balanced ZTA 20-01. Acknowledging the importance of advancing renewable energy to meet the County's climate change goals, significant compromises were made, including allowing facilities on class 3 prime soils. Most of the County's productive farmland consists of types 2 and 3 soils.

In accessing the ZTA at the 2-year mark, the [Planning report](#) notes that two solar projects are in process under the terms of ZTA 20-01, with construction set to begin this year. The report reads: "While this demonstrates a modest start to the [county's] solar program... It also demonstrates it is possible to promote solar projects on agricultural lands, aiding in reducing carbon emissions and contributing toward our larger renewable energy and solar production goals, while ensuring agriculture remains the primary use within the Agricultural Reserve."

The report further states that energy utility companies have created a significant obstacle to smaller scale solar projects. Put simply, utility companies can more easily find the renewable energy they need (under state law) for larger commercial scale projects in other jurisdictions and states. This "dissuades the utilities from working with smaller projects locally," the report concludes. Another obstacle is ready connectivity infrastructure to the energy grid. In addition, the report says that the Ag Reserve is "at the edge of the service areas for all three (regional) electricity providers (PEPCO, BG&E, and Potomac Edison); exacerbating capacity shortcomings." Overall, these energy, infrastructure hurdles "represent the largest obstacle to implementing our

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collective solar goals, and zoning and land use regulation may likely have little if any ability to remedy these issues." ~

What our local zoning, regulations, and master plans necessarily accomplish is the continued preservation of agriculture in the County's Ag Reserve, which will be key in our collective goal to meet the challenges of a changing climate and increased demand for locally produced food by existing, new, and diverse producers. We appreciate your efforts to give voice to this imperative and are happy to assist.

Respectfully,

Todd Greenstone, President, Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Randy Stabler, Chair, Montgomery County Ag Preservation Board

Lori Larson, Chair, Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee

Bob Cissel, Director, Montgomery Agricultural Producers

Steve Findlay, President, Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Caroline Taylor, Executive Director, Montgomery Countryside Alliance

January 22, 2024

Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



Dear members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

We are Maryland family farmers writing in strong support of SB193, which will provide more humane eggs for Marylanders. This measure would provide spatial standards for egg-laying hens in our state, which give the birds enough room to move and express natural behaviors. It would also ensure that eggs sold in our state come from facilities that are held to these same standards. On some industrial production facilities, egg-laying hens are confined in cages so small they're rendered virtually immobile for their whole lives. This confinement can undercut responsible family farmers who use more humane means of raising animals. Moreover, workers at these corporate facilities often report that witnessing such cruel conditions takes an emotional toll on them.

SB193 is a commonsense bill that's in line with how animals ought to be treated. We are concerned about animal welfare, the viability of family farms and the reputation of Maryland agriculture, and therefore kindly urge your support of SB193.

Sincerely,

Honey Moon Farm, Accident

Diehl's Produce, Annapolis

Hollywood Farm, Annapolis

Olmo Bros Nursery & Farm, Annapolis

Tanglewood Sheep and Goat Farm, Ashton

Hybridoma Organic Fruit Farm, Baldwin

Butterbee Farm, Baltimore

J's Farm Market, Bel Air

Serenity Farm, Benedict

Goat Plum Tree Farm, Berlin

Belle Prairie Farm, Big Pool

Foxhound Farm, Bishopville

Contentment Farm, Boonsboro

Cherry Glen Farm, Boyds

Windy Way Farm, Boyds

Peaceful Acres Organic Free Range Farm,
Brandywine

Bella Vita Farm, Brookeville

DoDo Farms, Brookeville

Victory Chapel Family Farms, Bryans Road

Anchorage Farm, Centreville

Land's End Farm, Centreville

Where Pigs Fly Farm, Centreville

Redman Farms, Chestertown

Oksana's Produce, Chestertown

Reiner Farm, Cheverly

Natural Nick's Produce LLC, Chillum Gardens

The Hydrofarm Inc., Churchville

Rebecca's Garden, Columbia

Rumbleway Farm, Conowingo

Bobs Organic Farm, Cordova

Environmental Evergreens, Darlington

Chicken of the Woods Permaculture Farm,
Darnestown

SB193: FAVORABLE

Query Mill Farm, Darnestown	R & H Farms, Lexington Park
Mt Airy U-Pick Farm, Davidsonville	Berry Daze Farm, Lothian
P & J Tree Farm, Delmar	Buppert's Farm, Marriottsville
Amaranth Acres, Dickerson	Scarborough Farm, Mechanicsville
Monocacy Mills, Dickerson	Chocolates and Tomatoes Farm, Middletown
One Acre Farm, Dickerson	Harley Farm, Middletown
A. H. Herb'n Craft Farm, Easton	Millersville Hens, Millersville
Cottingham Farm, Easton	Karma Farm, Monkton
Olney Farm, Elkridge	Maryland Microgreens, Monrovia
Eder Farm, Elkton	Elk Run Winery, Mount Airy
Stone Wall Angus LLC, Fairplay	Frog Hollow Homestead, Myersville
Belvedere Farm, Fallston	Shepherds Manor Creamery, New Windsor
Harford Vineyard & Winery, Forest Hill	Haley Farm, Oakland
Three Oaks Farm, Forest Hill	The Farm at Glen Mary, Park Hall
Ambling Brook Farm, Frederick	Grandma's Farm, Pleasant Valley
Sycamore Spring Farm, Frederick	Grateful Gardeners, Poolesville
Oak Spring Farm, Freeland	Plow and Stars Farm, Poolesville
Heartwood Farm, Friendsville	Scrivener's Farm, Prince Frederick
Two Story Chimney Ciderworks, Gaithersburg	Brightman Farm, Princess Anne
Hideaway Farm, Gambrells	Crooked Creek Farm, Pylesville
Prigel Family Creamery, Glen Arm	Piece of Heaven Farm, Reisterstown
Fat & Happy Farms, Grasonville	Farm To Fork Fresh Farm, Ridgely
Kinohi Poultry, Greensboro	Brewers Hideaway Farm, Rising Sun
The Blue Truck Homestead, Hagerstown	Windy Ridge Acres, Rocky Ridge
Third Way Farm, Havre de Grace	Maple Vale Farm, Rohrsersville
Fox Briar Farm, Hurlock	growingSOUL, Sandy Spring
Red Top Farm, Jarrettsville	Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm, Severn
Castle Hill Farm, Jefferson	Springfield Farm, Sparks
Fox Haven Organic Farm, Jefferson	Carriage House Farms, Stevenson
Blue-Ridge Farm, Keedysville	Prosperity Acres, Sunderland
Lonesome Pine Farms, Knoxville	Ritter Farm, Sykesville
Hancock Farm, La Plata	Crossroads Multi-Farm CSA, Takoma Park
Gorman Farm, Laurel	Fiddler's Green Farm, Taneytown
Our Graystone Farm, Laytonsville	Ridgeton Farms, Taylors Island
Part Green Hill Farm, Leonardtown	Utica Bridge Farms, LLC, Thurmont

SB193: FAVORABLE

Gingersnap Farm, Trappe

Flying Pigs Farm, Union Bridge

Crazy Days Family Farm, Union Bridge

Deep Roots Farm, Upper Marlboro

Heron There Farm, Upper Marlboro

Owl's Nest Farm, Upper Marlboro

Chestnut Creek Farm, Westminster

Faithful Friends farm, Westminster

Lucky Lane Farm, White Hall

Star Bright Farm, White Hall

Breezy Willow Farm, Woodbine

Heron's Meadow Farm, Woodbine

Stewart Farms, Woodbine

Withers Wool, Woodbine

Moon Valley Farm, Woodsboro



Maryland Farm Bureau

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MEMO

To: County Farm Bureau Leadership

From: James K Raley, Jr., MDFB President

Date: June 25, 2024

Subject: Assistance Needed in Identifying Farm Names from SB 193 Testimony Review

Dear County Farm Bureau Leaders,

We are reaching out to request your assistance with an important matter concerning the identification of farm names listed in the attached Excel file. In both 2023 and 2024, a group known as Americans for Family Farmers used these farm names to provide favorable testimony on SB 193 (attached) - Agriculture: Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production - Prohibitions.

The Maryland Farm Bureau has already identified several members whose farm names were used without their knowledge, based on feedback received. However, as you will see, the Excel file does not list individual names, which complicates our verification process.

To ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information being used in these testimonies, we kindly ask for your help in identifying the individuals associated with the farm names in the Excel file. Your local knowledge and connections are invaluable in this effort. If you recognize a farm name and can identify the corresponding individual, please fill out the attached file with the relevant information and send it back to Tonya Meachem at tmeachem@marylandfb.org.

It is crucial to inform the farms that their names may have been used without their knowledge, particularly given that Americans for Family Farmers has previously been profiled as an animal rights group posing as a farm-friendly non-profit.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your ongoing support in protecting the interests of our farming community.

Attachments:

- Excel File with Farm Names
- SB 193 Legislation Document