



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
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**HOWARD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2009

Attendance:

Board Members: Sean Hough, Chairman
John Komsa, Vice Chairman
James Eacker
Howie Feaga
Shirley Matlock
Lynn Moore

Petitioners: Megan Handshu, Department of Recreation and Parks

Staff: Joy Levy, Administrator, Agricultural Land Preservation Program
Mary Smith, Secretary, Agricultural Land Preservation Program

I. Action Items

1. Minutes from January 12, 2009 Meeting – Chairman Hough called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and then asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting. There being none, Mr. Eacker motioned to accept the minutes as mailed. Mr. Feaga seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request for Approval, Forest Conservation planting; Litt property, HO-87-04-E, 60 Acres (ALPB) – Ms. Levy stated that James and Leona Frothingham were the original grantors of the easement on the subject property, which was placed in the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program on December 31, 1986. Mr. Litt is Mrs. Frothingham's son, and he has owned the property since February of 2008. Ms. Levy summarized the history of requests and approvals on the property.

Ms. Levy noted that the current request is to create a forest conservation easement area on a portion of the farm, and is being made by Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP), as part of their Private Forest Conservation Easement (PFCE) initiative.

Ms. Levy reviewed several aerial maps pointing out that the proposed 3-acre planting area will include two areas that meet the ALPP Revised Forest Conservation Planting policy, and a small wedge of 10% additional planting allowance that will straighten the planting boundary. According to DRP staff, there is a pipeline easement that runs across the Litt property in the vicinity of the planting area, and the additional 10% will close a gap between the stream buffer area and the pipeline easement. The pipeline is buried, but the easement, which is approximately 35 feet on either side, cannot be farmed. The overall planting project will buffer 1,140 feet of stream within the Patapsco watershed.

Ms. Levy acknowledged that at the January meeting the Board requested additional documentation for all of the PFCE requests, including written confirmation from the Soil Conservation District that the planting areas are

consistent with their goals, and additional maps that show topography and stream buffers. She noted that Ms. Handshu included all of the requested information with the planting request.

Ms. Levy recommended approval of the proposed PFCE on the Litt property, based on the proposal being consistent with Howard County's revised Forest Conservation Planting Policy.

Chairman Hough asked for questions.

Mr. Komsa expressed his concern that the majority of the PFCE requests so far have proposed to use the 10% additional planting allowance.

Mr. Eacker moved to accept the staff recommendation. Mr. Feaga seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Request for Approval, Forest Conservation planting; Hurt property, HO-89-06-E, 97 Acres (ALPB) - Ms. Levy stated James Hurt and his brother, Gerald, are the grantors of the easement on the subject property, which was placed in the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program on January 30, 1990.

The current request is to create a forest conservation easement area on a portion of the farm and is being made by Howard County DRP, as part of their PFCE initiative.

Ms. Levy referred to the aerial maps showing the proposed 3.55-acre planting area and stated that the planting will fully buffer one side of the stream that crosses the farm, and enhance the buffer on the other side. According to DRP staff, the proposed planting will buffer 1,520 feet of stream and 230 feet of wetland in the Patapsco watershed.

Ms. Levy noted that all of the proposed planting complies with the ALPP revised Forest Conservation Planting Policy, without the use of the 10% allowance. She noted the letter from Jim Myers, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, confirming his review of, and concurrence with, the proposed planting.

Staff recommended approval of the proposed PFCE planting area on the Hurt property.

Chairman Hough called for questions. There being none, Mr. Eacker moved to accept the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore and unanimously carried.

Discussion Items

1. MALPF Legislation – Ms. Matlock inquired about the status of legislation affecting the MALPF program, stating that she is involved with the Maryland Association of Realtors, and has heard about several bills. Ms. Matlock asked Ms. Levy to provide a legislative update each month during the session. Ms. Levy stated that she would, and then provided a brief summary of the bills that had been introduced so far.

Chairman Hough adjourned the meeting at 8:20.

Joy Levy, Executive Secretary
Agricultural Land Preservation Board