

**MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

March 24, 2020

This meeting was held via internet conferencing.

Trustees Participating:

Michael Calkins, Chair
William Allen, Vice-Chair
Jerome Klasmeier, representing Comptroller Peter Franchot
Joanna Kille, representing Treasurer Nancy Kopp
Deborah Herr Cornwell, representing Secretary Robert McCord, Maryland
Department of Planning
Julie Oberg, representing Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Department
of Agriculture
Catherine Cosgrove
Cricket Goodall
Robin Kable
James Weddle
Joseph Wood

Trustees Absent:

J. Bruce Yerkes
Elizabeth Hill

Others Participating:

Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director
Diane Chasse, MALPF Administrator
Chana Turner, MALPF Administrator
Sarel Cousins, MALPF Administrator
Amanda Wilson, MALPF Fiscal Specialist
Kim Hoxter, MALPF Monitoring, Enforcement and Database Coordinator
Robert Day, MALPF Office Secretary
Justin Hayes, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Agriculture
Patrick Martyn, Assistant Attorney General, Department of General Services
Renee Dyson, Assistant Attorney General, Department of General Services
Michael Steadman, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Billy Gorski, Anne Arundel County Planner
Megan Benjamin, Baltimore County Program Staff
Beth Groth, Charles County Program Staff
Kathleen Freeman, Director Caroline County Department of Planning and Codes
Devyn King, Cecil County Program Administrator
Adam Gibson, Somerset County Program Administrator
Donna K. Landis-Smith, Queen Anne's County Program Administrator
Jenn Wilson, Harford County Program Staff
Shannon O'Neil, Frederick County Program Staff
Martin Sokolich, Talbot County Program Administrator
Mike Scheffel, Montgomery County Program Administrator
Anne Bradley, Frederick County Program Administrator
Donna Sasscer, St. Mary's County Program Administrator
Jeanine Nutter, Prince George's County Program Administrator

Mr. Calkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. via internet conferencing. Ms. Cable stated the names of the participants on the conference call, for the record, and asked anyone that was not named to identify themselves.

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E. BALTIMORE COUNTY

1. File #03-82-07A,B Sub #1 Stockton Farms, LLC (Price) 196 acres

Request:

Request for a 5-year extension to the validity of the preliminary release previously approved for a child lot for Jocelyn Price McCausland. If approved, this will be the second extension for this release, which expires on June 30, 2020.

Recommendation:

Under COMAR 15.15.06.05.B.2., Staff recommends approval of the extension.

Ms. Turner introduced the item. Ms. Benjamin was available for questions.

Motion #7: To approve the request for a 5-year extension to the validity of the preliminary release for the child's lot.

Motion: Wood Second: Allen
Status: Approved

V. NEW AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT PETITIONS:

N/A

VI. PROGRAM POLICY

A. FY 2020 Easement Inspection Deadline

Request:

MALPF staff recommends waiving the requirement to inspect state funded easements for FY 2020, with the deficit of easements to be accounted for by conducting 15% of all State easement properties to be inspected in FY 2021 and FY 2022. MALPF staff also requests that inspections on any federally funded easement properties not yet inspected be waived through the end of FY 2020, to resume in FY 2021.

Ms. Hoxter presented the item. Ms. Jenn Wilson, Harford County, asked if county staff would have the option to complete some inspections this year, which was provided an affirmative response. Ms. Kathleen Freeman, Caroline County, said they support the proposals; they are not allowed to conduct inspections at this time. Ms. Cable added that is the current policy for the State as well. Mr. Mike Scheffel said since Montgomery County has been hit the hardest with COVID-19, they support the proposal to ease inspections for this year and make up the difference in the following years.

Motion #8: To approve waiving the remainder of both state and federally funded easement inspections that were required for FY 2020, to resume in FY 2021, as presented.

Motion: Wood Second: Allen
Status: Approve

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Legislative Update

Ms. Turner provided the Board with the status of 2020 legislation affecting MALPF. The 2020 legislative session ended early due to the coronavirus.

B. News Articles (via e-mail only)

C. FY 2021 Application Cycle Deadline

Ms. Cable introduced the topic of the application submission deadline for the FY 2021 cycle in light of the current health pandemic. Ms. Cable presented three possible options for how MALPF could proceed with the FY 2021 easement cycle. Ms. Cable did not ask for any discussion or decisions at this meeting, but instead will email the options to both the Board, and County staff for their consideration and input on how to proceed. MALPF

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staff will provide the Board with a summary of the Counties' recommendations, and ask for the Board to make a decision at the April meeting.

N/A

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Calkins asked for a motion for adjournment of the meeting to move into a closed session, pursuant to the applicable provisions of General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b): (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and (8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Motion #9: To adjourn the regular session at 9:40 a.m. to move into a closed session to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Motion: Wood Second: Cosgrove
Status: Approved

The Closed Meeting of the Board was held from 9:54 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on March 24, 2020 via internet and telephone conference call, pursuant to the provisions of the General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b): Annotated Code of Maryland:

General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b):

(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition;

(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and

(8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

During the Closed Meeting, the following Board members were present: Michael Calkins, Chair, William Allen, Vice-Chair, Jerome Klasmeier, representing Comptroller Peter Franchot, Joanna Kille, representing Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Deborah Herr Cornwell, representing Secretary Robert McCord, Maryland Department of Planning, Julie Oberg, representing Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Catherine Cosgrove, Cricket Goodall, Robin Kable, and Jim Weddle.

The following Board members were absent:

J. Bruce Yerkes, Joe Wood, and Elizabeth Hill.

The following MALPF staff and legal representatives were also present during the closed session meeting: Michelle Cable, Diane Chasse, Chana Turner, Sarel Cousins, Kim Hoxter, Amanda Wilson, Robert Day, Justin Hayes, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Michael Steadman, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Patrick Martyn, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of General Services and Renee Dyson, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of General Services.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- A. Approval of February 25 2020, Closed Session Minutes
- B. Status Report of Pending Legal Issues

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- C. FY 2020 Round One Offers
- D. Pending request under COMAR 15.15.16.
- E. Pending FY 2020 Easement Offer request

Respectfully Submitted:



Michelle Cable, MALPF Executive Director