

TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
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Talbot County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
Date: 2 /21 /18
Location: Department of Planning and Zoning – 215 Bay Street, Easton, MD

APAB Members		
Name	Attended	Comments
Robert Saathoff	*	
Elaine Altvater		
John Swaine III		
John Sewell	*	
Glen Gannon	*	

Staff and Guests
Martin Sokolich Talbot County Department of Planning and Zoning

Agenda and Notes
<p>Call to order – 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>I. Roll Call</p> <p>A. Election of Chairman A motion was made by Mr. Sewell to reappoint Mr. Saathoff Chairman. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gannon and approved by all members in attendance.</p> <p>II. Old Business</p> <p>A. Review of 2017 MALPF application round The eight highest ranking applications from the 2016 round were sent up to MALPF in July – the beginning of the 2017 Fiscal year.</p> <p>The first applicants from the list to accept an offer, in October, 2017, was John and Sherrill Brooks for their farm on Colby Road. As of this meeting the owners were in the process of completing the survey and other documents required for settlement.</p> <p>The second and third applicants accepted offers in January, 2018 were Steve and Lynn Harris and Mark and Vicki Sump. Both were second round offers, discounted on their initial applications from the full fair market values and requiring no additional contribution of County funds.</p>

III. New Business

A. The 2019 Application round has been announced

Applications due to MALPF by July 1, 2018. Total funding for easement purchases has not been determined though the program has been fully funded in the State budget. Also it has not been determined whether or not this will be a return to annual application rounds.

B. Next Gen Program

Talbot County entered one farm into the initial round of a MARBIDCO program intended to help establish the next generation of farmers on Maryland farms. The current issue is to secure an easement for the farm owners which would pay back MARBIDCO for a portion of the mortgage. It is not the County's responsibility to make funds available beyond working to find properties to meet basic qualifications. There are no easy answers. Martin will discuss with County Manager and Finance Director.

C. Potential Changes to Ranking Formula

It may be possible to create more competition for BMP points by re-examining recommended agricultural practices. This is the one part of rankings that can change. It is possible to either eliminate cover crops from the ranking in favor of another practice or re-examine some of the other BMPs to benefit farm productivity and the MALPF program. Changes to the ranking formula must be approved by MALPF.

D. Recertification Report

MALPF has approved the County's Priority Preservation Area certification, for at least two years. MALPF is considering extending certification to five years.

E. Next meeting

Main item will be to approve applications to MALPF, mid to late May.

F. Zoning Ordinance Update

Updated ordinance is currently with the Planning Commission and will soon go to the County Council for review. Items that may be of interest to farm community include retail and commercial accessory uses, home based businesses and event venues. Chickens are to be permitted in villages and subdivision areas. The entire ordinance is available online at [www.Next Step 190.com](http://www.NextStep190.com).

G. Open Meeting Act Training

All public bodies are subject to Maryland's Open Meetings Act requirements. A member of every County Board or Commission is required to take State-approved Open Meetings Act training. The online training is free of charge. take the training is on online at the following site: http://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_intro1.php.

At the end of the training, you will receive a certificate. Hold on to yours because the online system does not track who completes the training. The County Administration is keeping track of all members who have completed the training.

IV. Open Floor

V. Adjourn

Motion to close the meeting at 8:48 a.m. by Saathoff, seconded by Gannon.

Follow-up:

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