

MINUTES

The Kent County Planning Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room at 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland, with the following members in attendance: Elizabeth Morris, Chairman; William Sutton, Vice Chairman; Ed Birkmire; and Joe Hickman. Amy Moredock, Planning Director, was also in attendance.

Ms. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of December 7, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review for the meeting in January of 2017.

STAFF REPORTS

Amy Moredock:

- Attended the MACo Winter Conference and where I sat on a panel dedicated to a discussion of renewable energy generation facilities.
- Attended a day-long Sewer Extension Workshop on December 14, 2016 which was hosted by the Healthy Waters Roundtable.
- The County has received notice of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application to the Public Service Commission for a 57.04 MW solar project located on the "Clark Farm". Morgnec Road Solar, LLC is proposing to construct a 255-acre utility scale solar system on three parcels. The applicant has also requested a waiver of the 2-year notice provision. Staff is coordinating with the Town of Chestertown regarding the project as the land is located within the town's priority designated growth area in its Comprehensive Plan. Staff will meet with PPRP staff on 10 January 2017 to discuss the project.
- Will present to the Critical Area Commission planners at the quarterly meeting this month regarding the County's renewable energy system experiences.

Katrina Tucker (presented by Ms. Moredock):

- Completed the written Baseline Reports required by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) for five farms that received Round 2 offers from the 2014 Easement Cycle so that they can go to settlement.
- The County Commissioners approved the designation of the Radcliffe Cross Historic District and the District Agreement was recorded in the County Land Records. This is only the 7th Site in the County to obtain this Historic Designation; the last one was established in 2012.
- Attended the "Grow Maryland Summit" on value-added agriculture, which addressed components of this growing sector of the agricultural industry and the impact on economic development and role in tourism.
- Joined webinars on Community Solar Energy and Community Wind Energy.
- Attended the "town hall" meeting conducted by Preservation Maryland and the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance at which the purpose, function, future of the "Six-to-

Fix” designation for the Cultural Landscapes of the Eastern Shore Chesterville/Morgan Creek district was presented.

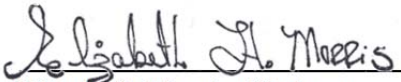
- Participated in the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy’s (ESLC) quarterly planner’s exchange, which included representatives from ESLC and MACo providing overviews of their legislative initiatives for the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly. One of the MACo initiatives will be advocate for legislation concerning the siting of renewable energy facilities.


Stephanie Jones (presented by Ms. Moredock):

- Attended a day long Sewer Extension Workshop on December 14, 2016 which was put together by the Healthy Waters Roundtable. The workshop included presenters from MDE, MDP, and local jurisdictions from the Eastern Shore discussing:
 - The process of changing from septic to sewer
 - How the comprehensive plan relates to sewer extensions
 - Funding (Bay Restoration Fund)
 - WIP credits
 - Case studies including Southern Kent Island Sewer extension and Greensboro and Goldsboro extension
- Approved an administrative buffer variance on December 20, 2016 to allow septic system upgrade within the 100-foot Critical Area Buffer.
- Attended an on-site meeting with the Sassafras River Association. SRA is proposing to reclaim 2 large ravines near Swantown Creek by using drop structures, ponds, and grade control structures created from trees to mimic step pools.
- Will be attending the Quarterly Critical Area Commission Meeting in January.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There being no further business for the good of the organization, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. to convene the work-session on the update to the County’s Comprehensive Plan.


Elizabeth Morris, Chairman


Amy Moredock, Acting Clerk