

Kent County Renewable Energy Task Force  
1 April 2016  
Meeting Summary

The Kent County 2015/16 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) met on Friday, 1 April 2016 at 9:00 am in the Second Floor Conference room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, MD. The following members attended: Walter Bowie, Briggs Cunningham, William Cooper, Bob Ingersol, Janet Christensen-Lewis, Kim Kohl, and Ellyn Vail. RETF staff in attendance included Katrina Tucker, Community Planner, and Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner.

Ms. Tucker advised that the meeting summary for 18 March will be presented at the next meeting.

Discussion of Small Scale Solar Energy System provisions

The current standards for Small Solar Energy Systems in each Zoning District were reviewed. Site plan provisions and setback requirements were discussed, with staff advising that the setback requirements of each zoning district applied. Discussion ensued concerning screening, which could be fences. By a motion and vote of 6 in favor and 1 abstention, it was decided to not add screening provisions for small scale solar systems.

Discussions also addressed replacement of trees in kind (i.e. oak for oak), and whether acreage or area limitations should be added.

After deliberations a vote was taken on each section of each zoning district in which small scale solar energy systems are permitted, for which it was unanimously decided that no changes were needed to the existing provisions of the Land Use Ordinance.

Discussion of Wind Energy Systems

The RETF deliberated wind energy systems, including utility scale. Discussion included changes in technology and that the RETF needed to discuss utility scale wind systems in order to decide what is appropriate for Kent County. By unanimous vote it was decided that the RETF would have a dialogue concerning utility scale wind energy systems for Kent County. Reliable sources of information will be shared by and among the members.

Utility Scale Solar Text Amendments

By unanimous vote it was decided that the text amendments for utility scale solar energy systems as proposed by the RETF should be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Next steps

The RETF will complete a review of the existing wind energy system provisions of the Land Use Ordinance, and deliberate utility scale wind energy systems. In addition, the members will be invited to participate in the next Total Maximum Daily Load Committee meeting in order to offer comments on the Environment section of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is currently being updated, and the project consultant is conducting a workshop session with the TMDL Committee at their April meeting.