

Kent County Renewable Energy Task Force  
29 April 2016  
Meeting Summary

The Kent County 2015/16 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) met on Friday, 29 April 2016 at 9:00 am in the Second Floor Conference room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, MD for its final meeting. The following members attended: Walter Bowie, Briggs Cunningham, Janet Christensen-Lewis, William Cooper, David Hill, Bob Ingersol, Kim Kohl, Sam Shoge, Eddie Taylor, and Terry Willis. RETF staff in attendance included Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner; Amy G. Moredock, Planning Director; and Katrina Tucker, Community Planner.

Ms. Moredock requested comments and approval of the 15 April meeting summary. The summary was accepted as presented.

Discussion of Utility Scale Wind Energy Systems

Members discussed the existing wind energy system provisions and the wind energy studies provided via email from member Kim Kohl. Members thoroughly debated the impacts of utility scale wind energy systems on the agricultural industry and considered the intent of the Comprehensive Plan goals and strategies which support the promotion and protection of agriculture as a continued viable industry in the County and the intent of the Agricultural Zoning District.

Members voted unanimously that utility scale wind energy systems are not consistent with the intent of the Ordinance or the Comprehensive Plan.

However, the members were inclined to propose amendments to small scale wind energy systems provisions to make allowances for community scale projects (to be consistent with the community solar provisions discussed at the previous meeting). This entails adding net metering language to the small scale wind definition (to be consistent with the small scale solar energy system definition) and permit one tower per parcel (to include farms and not to exceed a height of 199 feet). Specifically, the following amendments to the Small Wind Energy System special exception provisions for AZD, RCD, RC, RR, CAR, and CR were approved accordingly:

- Article VII, Section 7.63 – Small Wind Energy Systems with a height that exceeds 80 feet ~~or on parcels less than 20 acres~~ in AZD, RCD, RC, RR, CAR, and CR. This motion passed by a vote of 6:4.
- No change to Article VII, Section 7.63.a – If an alternative energy source can produce equal energy, then that should be used rather than a tall tower which impacts the landscape. This motion passed by a vote of 9:1.
- Article VII, Section 7.63.e – The height of the structure to the tip of the blade at its highest point does not exceed ~~120~~ **199** feet. This motion passed by a vote of 6:4.

Next steps

The full body of proposed zoning text amendments drafted by the RETF will be placed on an upcoming Planning Commission agenda in order for the Commission to review and make recommendation to the County Commissioners.