

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The County Commissioners of Carroll County will hold a **virtual** public hearing on Thursday, April 29, 2021, to begin no sooner than 9:00 a.m. to hear public comments on proposed amendments to Chapter 158, Zoning, of the Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances of Carroll County. The proposed amendments would expand opportunities for development of community solar energy generating systems on existing remaining portions of five acres or greater in size in the Agricultural zoning district as of July 1, 2020, and are intended to increase access to solar energy, particularly for residents and small businesses. If approved, **1)** applicants would be required to convey to the County a permanent easement on the portion of the remaining portion not under solar development upon installation of a solar facility; **2)** a site plan must be submitted for review and approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission; **3)** co-location with certain agricultural uses would be required; **4)** a landscaped buffer would be required; and **5)** a plan would be required for eventual abandonment and decommissioning of the equipment/facilities.

Interested persons can view the proceedings by accessing the live stream through the County Facebook page; County YouTube channel; Meeting Portal; and Comcast Channel 24. For information regarding how to comment during the public comment portion of the hearing, please contact the Office of the County Commissioners at 410-386-2043 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday prior to the date of the hearing.

The Commissioners may make amendments to the proposed legislation based upon the comments received at the hearing and may do so without further hearing. Therefore, it is important for interested persons to be present.

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1-800-735-2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

To request that a copy of the proposed amendment be emailed or sent through the regular mail, please leave a voice mail message at 410-386-2030 or send an email to [PIARequests@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:PIARequests@carrollcountymd.gov). **The proposed amendment will also be available on the County's website** (<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/zoning-administration/community-solar-zoning-text-amendment/>). Questions and/or written comments should be addressed to Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator, Department of Land and Resource Management ([bdinne@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:bdinne@carrollcountymd.gov)), phone 410-386-2140, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, Maryland, 21157, MD Relay Service 7-1-1/800-735-2258, and will be considered if received prior to the close of the hearing. Both oral or written comments may be given at the hearing.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND