

Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board
Carroll County, Maryland
Official Minutes
August 2, 2023

The Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board met on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 10:58 a.m. The following board members were present: Mark Savage, Vice Chair, Alice Altstatt, Greg Dell, Phil Snader and Stan Pennington, Alternate. Others in attendance were J. P. Smith, Jr., Program Manager, Jackie Brathuhn Preservation Specialist, and Donna L. Black, Office Technician, of the Agricultural Land Preservation office. Absent was Tom Irwin, Chair.

Notice of this meeting was posted electronically on the County's website.

Call to Order: Mark Savage, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m.

Approval of Minutes - meeting minutes of July 5, 2023: Alice Altstatt made the motion to approve the July 5, 2023, minutes. The motion was seconded by Phil Snader, motion carried.

Request for a rebuild location, Ralph and Brenda Stambaugh, 168 South Springdale Road, Westminster, MALPF Easement: JP described the request to the board and reviewed the house rebuild location. JP recommended approval of this request. Greg Dell made the motion to approve the house relocation, the motion was seconded by Phil Snader, motion carried.

Policy changes to the Critical Farm Program: A question has been brought up about the current policy for minimum acreage allowed into the Critical Farm Program. JP reviewed the current qualifications for the Critical Farms program with the board. Jackie provided handouts to the board, which included the current procedures, qualifications, history, and approval process to be considered for the Critical Farms program. Jackie also provided a list of all Critical Farms in preservation from the beginning of the program in 1993 to current. JP proposed changes to the current policy suggesting properties smaller than 75 acres to be considered into the Critical Farms program. Properties with excellent soil and a large percent of tillable acres should be given consideration. There was much in-depth conversation between the Board, JP, and Jackie. Phil Snader asked questions about farms purchased through the Critical Farms program that are below the suggested 75 acres, and what policies were in place at the time those smaller properties came into the program. Jackie explained that Minutes could not be obtained, so policies back then are not clear. Greg Dell asked how accepting lower acre properties would affect Critical Farms funding. Jackie explained how Critical Farms money comes out of the County program funds, we would then be waiting 15 months to 2 years for our portion of funds to be reimbursed from MALPF. JP explained that any chance of getting our funds reimbursed was better than not getting reimbursed at all. JP recommended the program policies be modified to accept smaller properties into the Critical Farms program. Greg Dell made a motion to accept smaller acre properties into the Critical Farms program, they must meet all MALPF requirements. Phil Snader seconded the motion, Alice Altstatt opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.


Mark Savage, Vice-Chair