

# AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION WORK GROUP MEETING MINUTES

**June 6, 2007**

1. **Attendance:** Tom Dernoga, Marilynn Bland, Phil Carr, Boyd Campbell, Daniel Filippelli, Debra Naylor, Charles Renninger, William Moore, Richard Krueger, Torben Agesen, Mike Martin

2. **Meeting Agenda:**

- I. **Approval of Minutes (May 30)**

Minutes approved.

- II. **Discussion**

- CB-11-2007:**

Chair Dernoga indicated that Mr. Harry Ketts had raised a question regarding CB-11-2007 and that this bill was discussed and tabled in the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee on June 6<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of CB-11-2007, a new bill will be presented on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Bland informed the members that one of the main focuses of CB-11-2007 and any subsequent legislation is to address the significance of an African-American historic site. She encouraged everyone to keep an open mind to what she is trying to accomplish since the County has not taken the same interest in preserving this site as other historic sites in the County. Council Member Bland also noted that she has been attempting to address the site's historic significance through various legislation for the past five years. Boyd Campbell noted his family history in the County dating to the 1700s and he commended Council Member Bland and the County Council for their efforts in attempting to preserve the County's African-American historic sites.

Mike Martin inquired as to whether any of the current preservation programs provide points for properties with cultural/historical significance. Chair Dernoga responded that the PDR program does provide points for

such property and that the Council will be revisiting the program's ranking and point system to consider appropriate changes to all of the criteria. William Moore expressed concern with the current ranking system indicating that it appears similar to the State regulations which limit certain properties. Mr. Moore suggested that a barter system is necessary to allow program administrators to negotiate with the property owners.

Chair Dernoga informed the Work Group that the County Attorney's Office and the M-NCPPC General Counsel are working out issues associated with authorization to use Park tax for the purchase of easements (PDR program) in Aquasco. The General Counsel's office has indicated that State legislation is necessary to obtain this authorization.

Herman Windsor was present as an observer and expressed his concern as to how Croom is defined for purposes of eligibility in the PDR program because the Rural Legacy program currently has boundaries along Croom Road.

Dr. David Billings was present as an observer and commented that the Work Group should be sensitive to property owners of farms of all sizes.

**Letter from Prince George's County Farm Bureau to Thomas E. Dernoga (dated May 29, 2007)**

At Chair Dernoga's request, Harry Ketts summarized a letter submitted by the Farm Bureau expressing the feelings of residents and landowners of the Rural Tier as well as their ideas and concepts for consideration in helping the Rural Tier stay rural.

Chair Dernoga requested that Mr. Ketts seek additional input from the Farm Bureau in the form of a paper that outlines the problems farmers are facing, proposed solutions, and potential costs associated with the solutions.

**Handouts:**

June 3, 2007 Washington Post article: "Vintage Shopping, Close to Home. Maryland: The Vineyards are Small, but Passions"  
(submitted by Charles Renninger and Debra Naylor)

Agricultural Tours – Vancouver Island

Small Farm Success Project – Farmer Profiles "Mark Guenther"

Helpful Agricultural Tourism (Agri-tourism) Definitions

Small Farm Success Grants Program  
“Take Charge of Your Farm” – City-To-Farm Roads  
(submitted by Fred Tutman)

3. **Next Meeting:** June 20, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.
4. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.