

Date: 11 Sept 2014

Subject: Highland Farm Conditional Uses

My name is Stuart Kohn and I'm the President of the Howard County Citizens Association. Our Board fully supports this testimony. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting Scott Shearer's Highland Farm property. The violation cited by DPZ in no way causes any harm or is an eyesore to anyone. The over 2500 signatures on the petition clearly testifies to this. No one has stated otherwise. Mr. Shearer is a fine upstanding citizen. He even has the honor of receiving an award from Governor O'Malley. The award is for his volunteer service in 2012 in appreciation of his efforts to ensure the vitality of the community in which his contributions to the citizens of Maryland are of a longstanding tradition to the community. This no doubt speaks extremely well for his character and good standing.

The structures on his property are setback far enough from the main road where there is no harm to anyone. Why did DPZ cite Mr. Shearer? What was the compelling need? His antique fire engines and equipment is a showcase and has received notoriety in the newspapers. Why is Mr. Shearer being cited? Mr. Shearer has spent an enormous amount of attorney fees to protect his land that he is so proud of and this never should have happen.

The County's General Plan speaks for itself and his neighbors welcome him where history resides. We are very delighted to see that in DPZ's Technical Staff dated 5 September that they approve.

In conclusion all one has to do is modify the Howard County seal that sits behind the Hearing Examiner. In this case the seal should be revised to include Mr. Shearer's fire engines to the interior of the barns. Then simply let him live his life so we all can enjoy the pristine land vice seeing either commercial or residential development on the property.

Thank You,

Stuart Kohn
HCCA, President