

HCCA Board of Directors Meeting– March 7, 2017

Board Attendees: Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Alan Schneider, Secretary, Brian England, Jervis Dorton, Susan Garber, Howard Johnson.

Guests: Cyril Paumier, Ted Marioni, Joel Hurewitz and Russ Swateck.

1. The Treasurer's Report reviewed and approved.
2. Minutes from February 1 were received and noted.
3. **Symphony Woods.** On February 10 HCCA's list of Concerns and Recommendations was sent to the County Executive, Chief of Staff and County Council. A meeting was requested. The letter is posted on HCCA's web site. There has been no response to HCCA's letter.
4. **Commercial Solar on Agriculture Preserve Land.** Ted Marioani spoke strongly in opposition to proposed County legislation permitting up to 75 acres of commercial solar on Ag Preserve land violates the letter and the spirit of Agricultural Preservation. Commercial solar is not farming. Ted Marioni's testimony in opposition to the County Bill is available on the County Council web site. Criteria for solar installations were to be issued in the next several weeks. Litigation will be forthcoming. Other organizations are supportive, including Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County (CCWHC), and the Greater Highland Crossroads Association.
The Board voted unanimously in favor of supporting CCWHC in actions for compliance and enforcement of Agricultural Preserve Easements.
5. **Industrial Mulching Non compliance.** Ted Marioni also described a non compliance mulching operation in Western Howard County. The lack of compliance and enforcement is distressing.
6. **Proposed New Courthouse.** Joel Hurewitz reviewed his testimony against the proposed Courthouse location on Bendix Road. The proposed site does not meet several criteria used in other states for the best location for a Courthouse. In Howard County, the proposed site would be much better used for a school location.
A new courthouse is needed. Funding is a problem. A public private partnership has been proposed, but such an arrangement raises other issues and concerns, the details of which are not currently available.
7. **Merriweather Post Pavillion Noise.** HCCA was successful in its support of citizen complaints and a rollback of State legislation which increased the noise limits and the time limit beyond 10 PM. The Howard County Delegation supported Delegate Terri Hill and Delegate Eric Ebersol's proposed rollback. House Bill 677 was introduced and HCCA testified in support on February 22nd. Thanks to the Howard County General Assembly Delegation for its support and work in addressing the complaints raised by Howard County Citizens over the last several years.

- 8. Chapel Gate Update.** A hearing is scheduled for March 29th for closing arguments to the Zoning Board.
- 9. Proposed Development at Savage Historic District.** Susan Garber reviewed the failure of the amended proposed development to comply with previously raised community concerns, as well as county, state, and goals for watershed, forest cover, and Historic preservation. It also appears that the County is not receiving full value for the proposed land swap which enables the developer to add six additional single family homes. The Planning Board will review the revised proposal on March 16th.
- 10. HCCA's Video: What is the Vision for the Next 50 Years.** Work is continuing on the video with tireless review by HCCA's Brian England and JD Smith. A preview of the video will be shown at HCCA's annual meeting in May.
- 11. APFO.** Stu Kohn testified and presented information on the issues which were omitted from the majority report. The proposed APFO revisions do not resolve the infrastructure funding needs. The proposed APFO calculation revisions do not include infrastructure needed to serve forecast population growth for new schools, hospital growth, police, fire protection and traffic congestion. APFO concerns affect every citizen in Howard County.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next meeting is April 6th.