



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

My name is Alan Schneider, testifying for Howard County Citizens Association. **HCCA's mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Howard County, to advance the orderly growth and development in the best interests of its residents and the environment, and to preserve agricultural, historic and open space.** (Copy attached.)

The Mission of the Planning Board is the same; the interests of the residents.

HCCA submits that missing information requires "no approval".

1. Failure of "Buffer" criteria. Section 125 is the Protection of Scenic Roads. Section 125(c)(2) provides that "a 100-foot continuous vegetated buffer...**shall be** maintained..." (emphasis added)..
 - a. Failure of Section 125(c)(5)(ii) which provides "The Planning Board shall determine whether the buffer preserves or enhances the visual character of the road **and surrounding area**, and whether access minimizes impacts to the buffer...." (emphasis added.)
 - i. **There is no definition of "surrounding area"** in Section 103.0 Definitions.
The Planning Board does not have a code definition to enable a buffer reduction.
 - b. A separate, independent factor in Section 125(c)(5)(ii) is that "the Planning Board **may (not shall) reduce** an existing non-wooded buffer to no-less than 75 feet if (additional conditions)..."
 - I. A wooded area cannot be reduced from 100 to 75 feet. The TSR Plan History documents that WP-17-048 submitted on January 24, 2018 approved the removal of 72 specimen trees.
 - II. Also WP-21-012 approved removal of 13 additional specimen trees on June 11, 2021.
 - III. Past noncompliance by Taylor Service must also be considered. Taylor has previously been issued a Stop Work Order. Prior failures to show consideration for scenic character and environmental sustainability cannot be overcome by the number of diagrams, pictures, time spent, or costs.
2. Taylor Service Company provides no justification for reducing the buffer from 100' to 75'. What is the benefit to residents? What is the impact? What is the purpose?
3. Taylor Service Company provides no evaluation of the conversion of pervious to impervious conditions. The TSR notes Tiber Branch watershed amendments, CR-123-2019 stormwater management Design Manual amendments, CB 62-2019 Forest Conservation regulation amendments, and CB 63- 2019 scenic road regulation amendments. The Planning Board must consider that the majority of residents require greater consideration be given to protecting environmental sustainability. Storms are more frequent and more severe. Who is responsible? What guarantees does Taylor Service Company and its officers, directors and owners provide?
4. New State Laws were not taken into consideration. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 and related legislation went into effect July 1, 2022. Attached is a list of new laws that must be taken into consideration for the protection of our land and our resources going forward. Has Taylor Service Company committed to installing solar on all buildings to enable residents to avoid future electricity cost increases? Are recharging connections enabled for every unit? What will Taylor Service Company do to maintain evolving watershed protections?

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Schneider