

Sayers, Margery

From: Stuart Kohn <stukohn@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 10:17 AM
To: HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] HCCA Very Disappointed in Outcome of Scenic Road Bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Marc,

Your comment below is unfortunately well taken. Perhaps we can have a lesson learned in this Case and others to follow. It would be beneficial in anyway to define the word "substantive." HCCA has for sometime been asking our legislators to do this. The word is to generic and up for interpretation. We need to establish some sort of standardization for the public and our elected officials.

A suggestion would be for the Council to adopt a quantitative mechanism as a Bill which states after "X" number of Amendments to a given Bill or Resolution or Amendments to Amendments than it is mandatory for a second Public Legislative Hearing be conducted for said Bill or Resolution.

One has to realize that one Amendment might have a major impact but by establishing a given number this would be a start to bring an understanding to the table for all.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 16, 2019, at 11:37 PM, Marc Norman marcnorman@verizon.net [HOWARD-CITIZEN] <HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

While Dr. Ball certainly raises legitimate questions that should be addressed in a revised bill, I find myself with a certain sarcastic smile as I recall some of the legislation and zoning decisions that were "slammed" through the process during the previous Council/Zoning Board's 12 year tenure.

Marc Norman

----- Original message -----

From: "'Stu Kohn' stukohn@verizon.net [HOWARD-CITIZEN]" <HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com>
Date: 4/16/19 8:56 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com, calvinball@howardcountymd.gov, councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: RE: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] HCCA Very Disappointed in Outcome of Scenic Road Bill

FYI,

Here is County Executive Ball's rationale as to why he chose to veto CB11-2019 the Scenic Roads Bill -- <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=8DGsr9jxWZM%3D&tabid=2015&portalid=0>.

Stu Kohn

HCCA President

From: HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com [mailto:HOWARD-CITIZEN@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 8:47 PM
To: calvinball@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; howard-citizen@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] HCCA Very Disappointed in Outcome of Scenic Road Bill

FYI,

Just wanted to report to you the Scenic Road Bill was Vetoed by County Executive Calvin Ball. This was very disappointing especially because Councilpersons Jung, Rigby and Walsh voted in Favor of a Bill which really showed they care about whatever scenic view we still have left in Howard County. Please see the article in the Baltimore Sun <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/howard/ph-ho-cf-veto-scenic-0409-story.html>. The quotes by Councilpersons Jung and Walsh in the article are the feeling of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. We testified <http://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/HCCA-Testimony-CB11-2019-Scenic-Roads.pdf> on this passed Bill and were taken back by the Veto by the County Executive.

Stu Kohn

HCCA President

Posted by: Marc Norman <marcnorman@verizon.net>

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Sayers, Margery

From: JTK <jtk409a@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 8:01 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Re: Support for CB11 Forest Buffer; Request for Amendments

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dr. Ball:

I was so incredibly disappointed to hear that you vetoed the bill that would expand the scenic road buffer to 100 ft.

I hope that you are able to work out the technical issues with the Council so that we will have your final approval of the 100 ft buffer.

My testimony supporting the expanded buffer is below. Though, admittedly, I was hoping the Council would add more protection, given the special circumstances in District One.

Thank you,
Julia

On Mar 3, 2019, at 3:36 PM, JTK <jtk409a@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Howard County Councilmembers:

Thank you for proposing CB11.

Expand the Scenic Road Forest Buffer

I am writing to add my strong support for CB11's expansion of the scenic road forest buffer to 100 ft. However, I hope that you will consider the following modification: for scenic roads that travel alongside streams, the 100ft forest buffer should start where the protected stream buffer set-back ends.

Many scenic roads are in watersheds, and several, like Bonnie Branch, Beechwood, and New Cut roads, have streams that travel alongside the scenic road.

For many years of rampant clearcut development of forested lands in District One, scenic road protections were just "guidelines." Developers did not have to accommodate their development to protect the scenic nature of these forested roadways in watershed areas. Although the guidelines were converted to regulations, it has become painfully obvious that they did not go far enough to protect our watersheds.

During the past few years, scenic roads along streams, like New Cut, Bonnie Branch, and Beechwood, have been destroyed by high velocity flood water runoff from infill subdivisions. The county has had to spend millions of our dollars to shore up the streambeds to maintain the integrity of the roads. These scenic roads now have ugly white rip rap stones along long stretches of eroded streambed.

This all could have been prevented if our regulations had been strong enough. They were not. It's not too late to try to stop further degradation of the last remaining areas of forest along scenic roads in the county. Retaining what forested areas we have left in the watershed is essential to soak up rain to prevent destructive flooding and filter freshwater headed to the streams and Patapsco River.

Please confirm in the regulation that changes will be effective immediately for all site development plans in process.

Add Reforestation Requirement

Given the amount of deforestation of scenic roads that has already been allowed to occur in District One, please consider adding a requirement that any development along a forested scenic road must be required to cede at least 100 ft frontage (starting from the stream buffer set-back if there is a stream) to the county as additional open space with an enhanced reforestation planting requirement paid for by the developer.

Ingress/Egress Along Steep Scenic Roads

In other parts of your bill, you address ingress/egress from scenic roads. Several scenic roads like Beechwood Road and Ilchester Road in District One have sections that are very steep. Allowing new infill development with ingress/egress along these steep areas will ruin the scenic nature of the road and be extremely dangerous. Please consider amending the regulation to address this.

Urgent Need to Strengthen Stream, Wetland, Steep Slope Buffers

I was heartened by Dr. Ball's tweet on February 27, 2019, where he said that "[w]e must have a sense of urgency to create a cleaner, greener, and healthier Howard County environment." I agree. We urgently need to strengthen protection of our watersheds from any further development. I hope that we will see proposals from the Council to substantially increase protected buffers for streams, wetlands, and steep slopes in your next round of proposed bills.

Thank you.

Julia T. Kovacs
Ellicott City, 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: JTK <jtk409a@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 1:38 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: Re: Support for CB11 Forest Buffer; Request for Amendments

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Stu Kohn

HCCA President

Posted by: "Stu Kohn" <stukohn@verizon.net>

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Posted by: stukohn@verizon.net

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Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Scenic Roads, CB 11-2019
Attachments: Yungman Letter re Scenic Roads.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: Angie & David Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Scenic Roads, CB 11-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

David,

Attached is a letter about the bill CB-11-2019 to protect scenic roads in Howard County. We urge you to vote to override the veto.

Angie & David Boyter

Angie & David Boyter

3914 MacAlpine Road

Ellicott City MD 21042

boyter@boyter.net

410 465-1444

April 16 2019

David Yungmann

Howard County Council

George Howard Bldg

Ellicott City MD 21042

Dear David,

We were distressed to hear that County Executive Ball cast his first veto against CB 11-2019, a bill that was carefully written to protect one of the things that makes Howard County special, our scenic roads. Natural beauty is something that humans universally respond to. As development proceeds, it goes without saying that natural landscapes will disappear, and once they disappear they cannot be restored. We hate to think that future generations will not have access to that kind of natural environment except by visiting special parks or reserves. The Howard County scenic road designation is an excellent way to give citizens natural exposure to a lovely environment.

A 35-foot buffer will destroy the scenic character of the road. It simply is not adequate to preserve the character of the road; the presence of the adjoining development will intrude. If you have any doubts, simply drive down a newer R-20 neighborhood. On a collector or arterial the setback for homes is 40 feet. Imagine this amount of setback "protecting" a scenic road. We think you will agree it is not enough.

There are not many scenic roads in the county; we need to cherish the ones we have. Many of them are in your district, but your constituents can see them as they drive through the county, and they will benefit from the scenic roads even more than the residents of other districts do.

We simply do not understand why the county executive vetoed CB 11-2019. There are adequate protections in the bill for the property rights of the landowners. Current clustering options and other provisions make it possible to protect development rights, and we see no specific flaws. Your experience in past county service could be helpful if improvements are needed. If you do see significant flaws, we would ask you to propose an amendment to correct them. If not, please vote to override the veto.

We urge you to join your colleagues on the Council and vote to override the executive veto so that present and future residents will continue to be able to enjoy the natural beauty of Howard County.

Sincerely,

Angie & David Boyter