



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Mercer Rigby, Chairperson
District 3

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2

Deb Jung
District 4

Liz Walsh
District 1

David Yungmann
District 5

Work Session
Friday, November 22, 2019
C. Vernon Gray Room
10:00 a.m.

Minutes (Approved)

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Council Members Present: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Mercer Rigby, Liz Walsh, Dave Yungmann.

Staff Present: Theodore Wimberly, Council Administrator (Acting); Owen Clark, Administrative Manager, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor.

Council Bill 62– 2019 Forest Conservation

- Discussion participants included: Josh Feldmark, Office of Community Sustainability, Stephanie Tuite, Fisher, Collins, Carter, Kevin Haines from Holly Oak Consulting, Ed Coleman, Planning Board (PB), Tudy Adler, PB, Phil Engelke, PB, Kevin McAliley, PB.
- There was general discussion with a brief overview and background of the legislation. Additional discussion was narrowed to the 25% of the bill that was different from existing State Forest Con law, including:
 - Thresholds, afforestation, reforestation, PB criteria for waivers, unwarranted hardships, and grandfathering.
- **Both the PB and the Council agree that there should be a Joint County Council/Planning Board meetings beginning in January.**
- **OCS will get modeling information to the Council.**

Council Bill 63 – 2019 Scenic Roads

- Discussion participants included: Amy Gowan and Beth Burgess, DPZ, Ed Coleman, Planning Board (PB), Tudy Adler, PB, Phil Engelke, PB, Kevin McAliley, PB.
- There was general discussion with a brief overview and background of the legislation. Additional discussion centered around the role of the PB, specifically:

- PB criteria for visual assessment, buffers, character v. aesthetics, DPZ capacity to administer expanded role, and future composition of the PB.

Council Resolution 143 – 2019 – Forest Con Fee-In-Lieu

- Discussion participants included: Josh Feldmark, Stephanie Tuite, Kevin Haines, and Erick Fisher, Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- There was general discussion with a brief overview and background of the legislation. The conversation moved into trying to determine the economic cost of removing trees from the environment. Chesapeake Bay Foundation will forward studies to the Council. The Anne Arundel County fee that was just passed was discussed. The discussion moved further into the non-compliance fee amount and whether it is appropriate.
- **The Audit staff will get further details on the 8 non-compliance cases that are on file.**

Council Bill 61 – 2019 Waivers

- Discussion participants included: Amy Gowan, Josh Feldmark, and Jim Irvin, DPZ.
- There was general discussion with a brief overview and background of the legislation. Additional discussion centered around the unreasonable hardships, man-made slopes, and role of the DPZ/DPW/OCS waiver panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.