



DONALD I. MOHLER III
County Executive

ANDREA VAN ARSDALE, Director
Department of Planning

Baltimore County Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING: August 16, 2018, Field Meeting – 3:30 pm – 5:12 pm - Board Meeting – 5:45 pm – 6:15 pm @ The Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

FIELD MEETING INTRODUCTION: Field Meeting commenced at 3:30 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gail Ensor, John Merryman, Stephen Myer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Welsh, Russell Berk

OTHERS PRESENT: Wally Lippincott (Staff), Joe Wiley (Staff)

A. Leung, Lester & Elizabeth – 116312 Old York Road, Monkton 71.2333 +/- acres

1) Request- Board review for a request for a tier 1 event on a MALPF easement.

2) Request- Board review and recommendation to MALPF for a uses request for an Equine and Canine Therapy

All requested used must satisfy the following criteria to determine if a commercial operation complies with the foundation’s statutory and regulatory restrictions:

- 1) The Foundation must determine that the proposed use is a farm or forest related use
- 2) The Foundation must determine if any request for a use or activity “conflicts with the overall purpose of the easement to preserve the farm for agricultural use and as open-space land
- 3) The Foundation should also consider whether the proposed use has an historical relationship to farming

MALPF Events Regulations:

- The event must be farm or forest related
- The number Frequency, and scale of any event must be consistent with the scale of the farm, the agricultural operation, and the area’s rural character
- May not conduct more than 16 events per year without MALPF Board Approval
- If impacted, any farm or forested area must be maintained or restored to its original condition
- No permanent structures may be created to support events
- Food for events may be provided through a catering service (including food trucks), with final preparation on-site

Background: The Leungs, (03-91-25Ae, 16312 Old York Rd, 71.2333 ac) have created a non-profit to provide equine and canine therapy programs on their farm to veterans, first responders, teenagers and their families. They propose to hold a “Grand Opening” event on September 29th and 30th (originally planned for September 8th and 9th) that they plan to be an annual fund raiser for their non-profit. They intent to have food venders, music in the barn, demonstrations with equine and canine, old tractors, and local fire and EMT companies. They have a field of sunflowers that if they grow will be part of the event. They also plan to have the 4H present. The

parking area is under 2 acres.

Requests: The Leungs, (03-91-25Ae, 16312 Old York Rd, 71.2333 ac) are seeking approval for uses to provide equine and canine therapy to active duty military members, veterans, teens and their families struggling with depression, anxiety, stress and PTS . They are also asking for approval to hold a “Grand Opening” event. The Farm land is currently divided as follows: approximately 45+ acres in crops as leased by Clear Meadow Farm, approximately 10 acres of horse pasture and stable, approximately 15 acres of woods with the remainder of the land for the homestead.

Hours of operation will be
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 am – 7pm
Wednesday, 2 pm- 7pm
Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm

The Equine program follows PATH guidelines and incorporates a team made up of a licensed counselor, PATH certified equine specialist/instructor, and a horse. The team will work with the client utilizing the same elements found in riding lessons- grooming, care, unmounted (ground) and mounted (riding) work during lessons/sessions

Canine therapy utilizes working dogs (Bernese Mountain Dog, Great Pyrenees and German Shepherd) to teach participants about working dogs while at the same time providing therapy opportunities. A licensed counselor, canine specialist, and dog will work with each participant. The working aspect will be incorporated at the end of the 12 week session similar to the mounted aspect of the Equine therapy program. Dogs will be therapy certified.

The “Family Fun” offered to participant’s family members is similar to the time spent by family members who are observing a student (spouse/sibling) during riding lessons, except WLF is offering structured activities that will attempt to provide some quality time for the family– WLF will make every effort for these activities to be “agriculture centered and/or related” such as gardening and using crops to create crafts (corn husk dolls, etc...) as well as an opportunity to walk the farm and learn about agriculture.

Discussion: Dr. & Mrs. Leung and several members of the Wellspring of Life Farm, Inc. met the Advisory Board and staff at the proposed therapeutic barn at the property. She gave background on her military family and her desire to provide this service. Mrs. Leung took the Advisory Board and staff on a tour of the barn and new interview rooms and described how the therapeutic process will be conducted. Mrs. Leung described that most therapy will include basic care of the animal, basic obedience and basic farm uses with some participants able to mount and ride a horse under supervision. The main focus for therapy will be with horses but some clients might be more comfortable with dogs. Other activities will be provided for the family of the participant. There are seven horses for the program, five are at the farm and two who are currently boarded at Manor Veterinary. Wellspring has three different breeds of working dogs that will be trained for therapy programs. Gail Ensor asked how many participants will be present at one time. Mrs. Leung explained that there will only be one participant at a time for a 40-minute session. Wally Lippincott asked if there would be a contract with the different therapists. Mrs. Leung responded that Wellspring will have a contract with the different therapists and each therapist will have insurance coverage. Wellspring is currently raising funds for a pool of money to pay therapists what insurance may not cover. Each therapist will be an independent contractor and will be certified by PATH. John Merryman asked about the future use of the facility and who would have access. Mrs. Leung indicated they want to limit therapy to veterans, first responders and their families. John Merryman asked if the program would be open to the public and Mrs. Leung indicated that it would not.

Motion 1. To approve a tier one event on September 29th & 30th or thereabouts.

Motion: Steve Myer 2nd: John Merryman Decision: Unanimous Approval

Motion 2. To recommend approval of the uses of an equine and canine therapy program located on the property and to be send the recommendation to MALPF for approval.

Motion: Steve Myer 2nd: John Merryman Decision: Unanimous Approval

RECESS: The meeting was recessed at 5:12 pm

Motion: Steve Myer 2nd: John Merryman Decision: Unanimous Approval

BOARD MEETING AT THE BALTIMORE COUNTY CENTER FOR MARYLAND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTIONS:

Board Meeting Convened at 5:45 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Merryman, Stephen Myer, Gail Ensor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Russell Berk, Scott Welsh

OTHERS PRESENT: Wally Lippincott (Staff), Joe Wiley (Staff)

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

(1) Motion: To approve Regular Meeting minutes of May 15, 2018.

**Motion: John Merryman Second: Steve Myer
Decision: Unanimous Approval**

(2) Motion: To approve Closed Meeting minutes of May 15, 2018.

**Motion: John Merryman Second: Steve Myer
Decision: Unanimous Approval**

(3) Motion: To approve Regular Meeting minutes of June 4, 2018 with changes.

**Motion: John Merryman Second: Steve Myer
Decision: Unanimous Approval**

(4) Motion: To approve Closed Meeting minutes of June 4, 2018 with changes.

**Motion: John Merryman Second: Steve Myer
Decision: Unanimous Approval**

(5) Motion: To approve Regular Meeting minutes of June 13, 2018 with changes.

**Motion: John Merryman Second: Steve Myer
Decision: Unanimous Approval**

(6) **Motion:** To approve Closed Meeting minutes of June 13, 2018 with changes.

Motion: John Merryman **Second:** Steve Myer

Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. STATUS OF EASEMENT TRANSACTIONS/ INSPECTIONS/ UPDATES

Staff updated the board on pending Easement statuses and inspections completed. MALPF inspections complete for 2018. Baltimore County\Federal need to be complete by Sept 1st. County easements need to be completed by December 31st.

III. MISCELLANEOUS/INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE/NEWS ARTICLES

None

IV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next scheduled meeting date is September 12, 2018.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn the Board meeting (@ 6:15pm)

Motion: Steve Myer **Second:** John Merryman **Decision:** Unanimous Approval