

Solar Task Force (Wednesday, December 9, 2020)

Generated by Sandie Greene on Thursday, December 10, 2020

Members present

Dr Michael Cain, Jeffrey Shaw, Bryan Thomas Sr, G. Mike Thompson and Bonnie Kelnberger via WebEx.

Consultant

Les Knapp via Webex

County Attorney

Neal Murphy, Assistant County Attorney

Staff

Harry Knight, Deputy Director, Land Use and Growth Management

Amy Carter, Video/Media Producer

Sandie Greene, Recorder

Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM

1. 4:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of minutes from the November 18, 2020, Solar Task Force meeting.

Move to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2020, Solar Task Force meeting.

Motion by Bryan Thomas Sr, second by G. Mike Thompson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, Bryan Thomas Sr, G. Mike Thompson

2. 4:05 p.m. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommending a Temporary Moratorium on new Utility-scale solar projects.

The Task Force moves to recommend the County Commissioners' adopt a temporary moratorium on the reviewing and approving of new applications for utility-scale solar projects, pending the passage of new zoning and regulatory requirements for St. Mary's County. The Moratorium should last approximately one year from today's date.

Motion by: Dr. Michael Cain, second by Bryan Thomas Sr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Bryan Thomas Sr. Dr. Michael Cain, G. Mike Thompson

Nay: Bonnie Kelnberger

Abstain: Jeffrey Shaw

B. Discussion of Principle #3 "Protect the Environment", of the Solar Task Force Final Report. The Task Force decided to Table the discussion of Principle #3, Protect the Environment, until January meeting, waiting on suggestions from members.

C. Recommendations for the Solar Task Force Final Report.

The Task Force approved the "General Recommendations", number 1 and 2.

The Task Force moved to approve "RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY" numbers 1,3,4 and 5.

Motion by Dr. Cain, Second by Bonnie Kelnberger

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, Bryan Thomas Sr, G. Mike Thompson

The Task Force decided to Table number 2 for further research and discussion until the January 13, 2021 Solar Task Force meeting. Task Force directed staff to invite Keith Fairfax, local firefighting expert, to next meeting for discussion of number 2.

The Task Force decided to Table number 6. Staff volunteered to contact Finance Dept., Economic Dev. Dept. and Housing Authority regarding number 6.

The Task Force deleted number 7.

The Task Force approved number 8.

The Task Force approved "COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ACCESSORY" numbers 1,3,4 and 6.

The Task Force approved number 2 with the insertion (underlined), "accessory structures in the zone".

The Task Force deleted number 5.

The Task Force tabled the second number 3 for future discussion.

Motion by Dr. Cain, Second by Jeffrey Shaw

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr. Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, Bryan Thomas Sr, G. Mike Thompson

Discussion: D. Maryland Macroeconomic Analysis Report

Dr. Cain explained that the report is for informational purposes only.

3. 5:30 p.m. ADJOURN

Move to adjourn the December 9, 2020 Solar Task Force meeting.

Motion by Dr Michael Cain, second by Jeffrey Shaw.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Dr Michael Cain, Bonnie Kelnberger, Jeffrey Shaw, Bryan Thomas Sr, George Thompson

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.