

Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 4/15/2008
Reference No.: CR-020-2008
Draft No.: 1
Proposer(s): Park & Planning
Sponsor(s): Bland, Dean, Turner, Dernoga
Item Title: A Resolution recommending that the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation approves the petition of Arthur and Roswitha Leitch to establish an agricultural district, reference Tax Map 174/Grid F1/Parcel 35/Tax Account 08-0832147 and 08-0832154.

Drafter: Todd M. Turner, Legislative Officer
Resource Personnel: Yates Clagett, Soil Conservation District

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: **Executive Action:** 4/22/2008 S
Committee Referral: 3/25/2008 - THE **Effective Date:**
Committee Action: 3/27/2008 - FAV
Date Introduced: 3/25/2008
Public Hearing: 4/15/2008 - 10:00 AM
Council Action (1) 4/15/2008 - ADOPTED
Council Votes: MB:A, WC:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, TK:A, EO:A, IT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date 3/27/2008

Committee Vote, Favorable, 3-0 (In favor: Council Members Dernoga, Olson and Bland)

Staff provided a summary of the resolutions and referral comments that were received. CR-20-2008 establishes an agricultural district for approximately 64.83 acres of land (Tax Map 174/Grid F1/Parcel 35/Tax Account 08-0832147 and 08-0832154) owned by Arthur and Roswitha Leitch. The property is located at 17220 Aquasco Farm Road in the Aquasco area.

A landowner of active agricultural use may file a petition with the county governing body requesting the establishment of an agricultural district composed of the land owned by the petitioners. The petition must be reviewed by the agricultural preservation advisory board and the county's planning board. The agricultural preservation advisory board determines if the proposed district meets the qualifications established by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and whether or not the advisory board recommends establishment of the district. The Planning Board determines if the district is compatible with existing and approved county plans and overall county policy, and whether or not the planning and zoning body recommends establishment

of the district.

If a landowner eventually sells an easement to the State, benefits to the landowner includes receiving some of the equity from his land while still retaining full use of the land for agricultural purposes. This also provides an economic means for the landowner to pass the property on to his heirs and ensure that the land remains in agricultural and open space use. The state benefits in that productive agricultural land remains in production and contributes to the economy. The county benefits in that the land remains in open space, preserves sensitive land in forests and wetlands and is compatible with its efforts in land use planning initiatives such as Commission 2000 and the rural tier.

According to the Office of Audits and Investigations adopting CR-20-2008 will not have an adverse fiscal impact on Prince George's County.

The Office of Law finds CR-20-2008 to be in proper legislative form.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

Subtitle 5 of Title 2 (Agriculture) of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides for the establishment of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and a procedure for the formation of agricultural districts. This program allows one or more landowners to voluntarily form an agricultural district to encourage the preservation of land. If adopted, this resolution provides the County governing body approval of the petition for the district.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
