

**Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory
Board Carroll County, Maryland
Official Minutes
March 18, 2026**

The Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board met on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Members present: Tom Irwin, Chair; Alice Altstatt, Phil Snader, Greg Dell, and Stan Pennington, Alternate. J. P. Smith, Jr., Program Manager and Jackie Roque, Preservation Specialist of the Agricultural Land Preservation Office, Christopher Heyn, P.E., Director of Planning and Land Management, and Dennis Brothers. Absent: Mark Savage, Vice Chair, and Donna Black, Administrative Technician of the Agricultural Land Preservation Office.

Notice of this meeting was posted electronically on the County's website.

Call to Order: Chair Tom Irwin called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of meeting minutes – February 18, 2026: Alice Altstatt moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Phil Snader. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for a new house location, Jacob Fisher, 4030 Francis Scott Key Highway, Taneytown, MALPF Easement: JP presented the request to the Board and reviewed the proposed location for the dwelling using the County's digital GIS mapping system. The Board asked questions regarding the location and JP told them this would be the primary dwelling on the farm and would be non-subdividable. JP recommended approval of the request. A motion to approve the request was made by Alice Altstatt and seconded by Phil Snader. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for new house location, David Ebersol, 3959 Middleburg Road, Union Bridge, County Easement: JP presented the request to the Board and reviewed the proposed location for the dwelling using the County's digital GIS mapping system. He explained to them that there is a barn already there and the Ebersols would like to make that barn their primary dwelling. A motion to approve the request for the barn to be the primary dwelling was made by Phil Snader and seconded by Alice Altstatt. The motion carried unanimously.

Follow-up to a request for a violation extension, Dennis and Sandra Brothers, 400 South Clear Ridge Road, New Windsor, Rural Legacy Easement: JP reminded the Board of the request from the January 21, 2026 meeting. Mr. Brothers told the Board he is still working with Ecotone. He is trying to find another grant through DNR. JP noted that Nutrient Management requires cattle to be fenced out of the stream if you have 8000 lbs. of animals or more, or if you make a gross income of \$2,500 from the farm. Mr. Brothers has removed some animals to be under 8000 lb. but does make more than the \$2,500 farm income. JP recommends the Board make a motion with a date when the fencing needs to be in place. A motion to have the temporary fencing installed within 60 days was made by Greg Dell and seconded by Alice Altstatt. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements: Alice Altstatt spoke about an article in Carroll County Times on February 12, 2026, regarding Solar projects at last month's meeting. Chris Heyn attended today to give some solar information. The Board of Commissioners puts regulations and the County code in place to limit residential property rights for the better of the community. The State gives County local jurisdiction for Zoning, etc. Solar projects, more than 2 megawatts, must get approval from the Public Service Commission which preempts the County regulations and authority. New State law says local jurisdiction

cannot stop solar projects that meet the criteria requirements. Over 5 megawatts, the local jurisdiction can prohibit solar in certain zoning areas like conservation. Solar projects are not allowed on Ag Preservation easements.

Closed session: Alice Altstatt made the motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Greg Dell, motion carried unanimously. The board went into closed session at 12:02 p.m.

Adjournment: Greg Dell moved to close the meeting. The motion was seconded by Phil Snader and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Irwin", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Irwin, Chair