

## Kent County Agricultural Advisory Commission Meeting Summary

The Kent County Agricultural Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, virtually with a live stream from the County Commissioners' Hearing Room at 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland, with the following members in attendance: Jennifer Debnam, Chair; John "Buddy" Cahall; Sean Jones; and Valerie Mason. Also present were William Mackey, Director; Carla Gerber, Deputy Director; and Michael Pelletier, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

### APPLICATIONS

**Paul R. Rickert, MS, MCJ, EdD, Area Extension Director - Upper Shore Cluster, University of Maryland Extension, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. Request to discuss suggested skillsets and areas of expertise the Commission would deem necessary for a Kent County Agriculture Agent**

Mr. Rickert gave a brief introduction of himself and his organization. He also discussed the purpose for requesting feedback from the Commission to better enable the University to train and/or hire an Agricultural Agent that meets the needs of the County.

Darren Jarboe, Ph.D., M.B.A., Assistant Director and Program Leader, Agriculture and Food Systems Program, University of Maryland Extension, introduced himself and discussed his role in agricultural education.

Examples of general responsibilities and qualifications for Agent positions in six Maryland Counties were discussed between the members, Mr. Rickert and Dr. Jarboe.

After discussing several needs within the County's agricultural community, Mr. Rickert and Dr. Jarboe opined that it appears the County would like to see the Agent position include an Agronomist and have some Agricultural Engineering background and that it was important that the Maryland Extension's network be better utilized to get information disseminated to County farmers.

### Kent County Comprehensive Rezoning Process

Mr. Mackey discussed the current Comprehensive Rezoning process, in particular, relating to the Agricultural Zoning District, and the desire of the County Commissioner's to receive feedback from the Agricultural Advisory Commission on several matters currently before the Comprehensive Rezoning Task Force. The anticipated timeline for the Comprehensive Rezoning process was also discussed. Staff suggested that the Commission meet in November or December to discuss the Task Force recommendations and again in February or March to review the draft document.

### ADJOURN

There being no further business for the good of the organization, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Jennifer Debnam*

Jennifer Debnam, Chair

*Michael Pelletier*

Michael Pelletier, Clerk