



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: 10/01/2023

WORCESTER COUNTY:

Ocean City: Per the last OC city council meeting a work group is being set up at the direction of Council member John Gehrig. While this action has roots in the Margaritaville development, that project will not be affected by the new work group.

Ocean City: The conditional use for the Nick's Mini Golf location at 1907 Philadelphia Avenue. Issues with this property have been going on for over a year. Residents were opposed to the development due to noise and light concerns. The conditional use was a unanimous 6-0 vote. Councilman Buas was not at the meeting, Mr. Buas is the attorney for the opposition group. Local business leaders came out in support for the building of the mini golf course.

WICOMICO COUNTY:

Salisbury: The disagreement between citizens in Salisbury and the recovery house community. The issue stems from citizen complaints and a perceived violation of zoning and use. Many of the houses are zoned R1 or R2. While the state health department has issued approvals for these houses, the City of Salisbury administration believe and argue that the recovery homes are in violation and should be asking R4 or R5 zoning. Those zoning guidelines correspond with dorm like housing. A decision from the administration is incoming any day. Both sides believe this will end up in the courts.



Tawes Clam Bake:

Here is a quick summary of the Tawes Clam Bake.

1. Governor Wes Moore attended the event and spent a majority of the time in the Bruce Bereano tent. Bruce is a long time lobbyist in Annapolis and hosts a private tent at Tawes. Secretary Jake Day was also in the tent with the Governor.
2. After discussions with John Cannon, President of the Wicomico County Council, he has expressed interest in pursuing a new septic plan with CAR input.
3. Further discussions with Bunky Luffman, assistant to county executive Julie Giordano have revealed that the county administration is in general agreement with many of the issues and concerns that CAR has.
4. Discussions with Senator Kagan and Senator Hershey have yielded positive receptions when it comes to septic concerns on potential bills in this upcoming session.
5. Paul Ellington, lobbyist for Worcester County, has expressed interest in working with CAR on zoning issues prior to further state level influence from taking effect. Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) has been filling in perceived gaps in certain zoning concerns in different counties but not yet Worcester.
6. I contacted the Somerset zoning board president. I will be following up with him this week to go over our concerns in Somerset County.