

Board of County Commissioners

Julia W. Gouge, President
Dean L. Minnich, Vice President
Michael D. Zimmer, Secretary



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
FAX 410-386-2485
MD Relay 7-1-1/800-735-2258

News Release

*For more information, contact: Thomas S. Devilbiss,
Deputy Director, Department of Planning, 410-386-2949*

For Immediate Release

Forest conservation, stormwater management changes proposed

Public hearing slated for April 1

March 9, 2010 – The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing next month on proposed changes to Carroll County’s forest conservation and stormwater management guidelines. Residents can present their thoughts on the proposals at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, April 1, in Room 311 of the County Office Building. A workshop will be held before the hearing, at 3 p.m. Monday, March 22 in Room 105. The workshop is an opportunity for people to meet with staff and ask specific questions about the proposals, which would appear as amendments to the Carroll County Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances.

Chapter 115 of the Code addresses forest conservation issues. Several changes were adopted by the State of Maryland and now must be changed in the County Code to comply with the state. These include reducing by half the amount of forest that can be impacted by development; limiting the inter-family exemption to the owner’s child only; and requiring special approval (known as a variance) to disturb high-priority forested areas. Other proposed amendments deal with utilities or local government projects, redevelopment, plant identification in sensitive areas, and reporting formats.

The Code’s Chapter 191 outlines stormwater management regulations. Major changes to this chapter are proposed, including new processes for review, approval, waiver, inspection and enforcement. Resource management plans would need to be filed for agricultural land management exemptions. Amendments reflect updates to the Maryland Stormwater Management Act of 2007.

Copies of the proposed draft amendments are available on the County’s web site (<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>) and through the Department of the County Attorney at 410-386-2030.

#

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or MD Relay 7-1-1/800-735-2258. The mailing address is: 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play