

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**  
**SUSTAINABLE MONOCACY COMMISSION**

The Sustainable Monocacy Commission (“Commission”) was officially established through Bill No. 19-17 and approved by the County Executive on January 23, 2020. Duties and role of the Commission include those specified in §§1-2-300 through 1-2-307 of the Frederick County Code.

**Section 1. Membership, Presiding Officers**

The Commission consists of nine (9) voting members, appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, and two (2) non-voting members who are elected officials of Frederick County and the City of Frederick, or their designees.

**1.1 Chair**

In March of each year, the Commission shall elect a Chair from among its members to serve a term of 1 year. The Chair shall be eligible for reelection. The Chair shall be the presiding officer at meetings of the Commission, and may call special meetings. The presiding officer shall decide on all points of order and procedure, subject to these rules, unless otherwise directed by a majority of the voting members present. The presiding officer may appoint a parliamentarian to assist in the implementation of these rules of procedure at his or her discretion.

**1.2 Vice-Chair**

In March of each year, the Commission shall elect a Vice-Chair from among its members to serve a term of 1 year. The Vice-Chair shall be eligible for reelection. The Vice-Chair shall be the presiding officer at meetings when the Chair is absent. In the absence of both officers, a temporary Chair shall be elected by the voting members present.

**1.3 Vacancy**

Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission caused by the resignation, death, incapacity to discharge duties, or any other reason, shall be filled for the remainder of the term of the vacant position. Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled on the same basis as the original appointment by the appointing authority (Frederick County Executive, with confirmation by the County Council) as soon as practicable. In the case of an expiration of term, a member may continue to serve until the member’s successor is appointed. Members may be reappointed, but may not serve more than two (2) full consecutive four-year terms. Initial members of the Commission who were appointed for a 2 or 3-year term may be reappointed for one (1) additional consecutive term.

**1.4 Special Committees**

Special committees may be appointed by the Chair for specific purposes, including investigation, research, or study.

**1.5 Compensation**

The members and officers of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

## **Section 2. Voting**

### **2.1 Quorum**

A quorum shall exist when a majority of the appointed, voting Commission members are physically present at a Commission meeting, except at a virtual meeting. In the case of a virtual meeting, a quorum will be established when a majority of Commission members are connected to the meeting with a functioning internet connection or telephone connection that allows members to be heard. No decision shall be made in the absence of a quorum.

### **2.2 Physical Presence Required**

A Commission member must be physically present to cast a vote, unless the meeting is held virtually. In the case of a virtual meeting, a Commission member must be connected to the meeting with a functioning internet connection or telephone connection that allows the member to be heard in order to cast a vote.

### **2.3 Recording Votes**

Commission members' votes and abstentions shall be recorded on each motion.

### **2.4 Tie Votes**

A tie vote by the Commission shall be interpreted as a defeat of the motion upon which the vote was taken.

### **2.5 Ethics Ordinance.**

Commission members shall comply with the Frederick County Ethics Ordinance (Frederick County Code Chapter 1-7.1) and are encouraged to consult the Frederick County Ethics Commission or Frederick County Attorney's Office as to the propriety of their voting on any matters that may involve conflicts of interest.

## **Section 3. Meetings**

### **3.1 Attendance**

Any voting member of the Commission who fails to attend at least 50% of the meetings during a calendar year (JANUARY—DECEMBER) shall be considered to have resigned. Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint a replacement to the Commission.

### **3.2 Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held monthly and scheduled accordingly, and called at the judgement of the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, except during the month of November, when the meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Meetings may be postponed to such a day and time as directed by the Chair or Vice-Chair in consultation with Staff. If Frederick County Public Schools are closed due to

inclement weather on the day of a regular scheduled meeting, the meeting shall not occur, but will be rescheduled to a future date by the Chair and Staff, unless a virtual meeting can be arranged.

### **3.3 Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be held to address issues of a sensitive, significant, or urgent nature that cannot wait until the next regular meeting date. Special meetings shall be conducted according to procedures governing regular meetings and, when possible, shall be scheduled by the Chair, in consultation with Staff, with at least seven (7) days' notice provided to all Commission members.

### **3.4 Closed Sessions**

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the Commission from holding closed sessions from which the public may be excluded in accordance with State law, but no resolution or recommendation shall be finally acted upon at such a closed session.

### **3.5 Open Meetings**

Except as provided in Section 3.4 above, all Commission meetings shall be open to the public as required by the Maryland Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provision Article, sections 3-101 through 3-501).

### **3.6 Staff**

A County Staff person will be designated by the County Executive as a liaison to assist the Commission in its duties and to make available such services and facilities deemed necessary or appropriate for the performance of the Commission's duties and responsibilities. County Staff shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings at all meetings, and distribute meeting minutes to all Commission members at or before the next meeting.

### **3.7 Order of Business**

The order of business shall be in accordance with the agenda prepared by Staff, in consultation with the Chair, and submitted to the Commission members prior to the scheduled meeting. Commission members who desire to add to the agenda should notify the Chair and Staff of their request within 72 hours of the scheduled meeting in order for the Chair to determine whether the item is added to the current meeting agenda prior to its posting and distribution, or placed on a meeting agenda further in the future.

## **Section 4. Conduct of Commission Members**

### **4.1 Representing the Commission**

A member shall not speak, offer testimony, or present written or verbal comments on behalf of the Commission except as authorized by a vote of the Commission. In any public or private statement concerning Commission affairs, members shall indicate whether they are speaking as an authorized representative of the Commission or for themselves.

### **4.2 Conduct at Meetings**

Members shall conduct themselves at Commission meetings in a fair, understanding, and courteous manner. They shall strive to be considerate of all individuals, attitudes, and opinions involved in official Commission business. Members must first be recognized by the Chair in order to speak.

#### **4.3 Gratuities and Entertainment**

Members shall not accept gifts or compensation from any person or entity involved in matters that come before the Commission or matters which may reasonably be anticipated to come before the Commission.

### **Section 5. Implementation of Rules of Procedure**

#### **5.1 Roberts Rules**

If in any case the Rules of Procedures do not address a particular process, a recent version of Roberts Rules of Procedure shall be followed.

#### **5.2 Amendment to Rules**

Proposed amendments to these Rules of Procedure may be introduced at any meeting of the Commission, shall be added to the agenda of the next meeting, and shall only be adopted upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.