

Staff Report: Forest Conservation Act O-22-16 & R-18-16 & O-23-16

The State Forest Conservation Act, Natural Resources Article Title 5, Subtitle 16, was passed in 1992 with a mandatory adoption by the State's municipalities. The Natural Resources Article included a recommended Model Ordinance, but the City of Annapolis opted to adopt the state law by reference with the approval of Ordinance O-11-92 as part of City Code 17.09, Trees in Development Areas. This action was approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The City has been working on changes to its adopted version of the Forest Conservation act for several years. Ordinance O-22-16 proposes changes the City's Forest Conservation Act to a version based on the recommended Model Ordinance. These changes add clarity to the appeal process and add additional measures of natural resources protection.

Ordinance O-23-16 proposes a change to the grading permit ordinance to add requirements for a grading permit if a combined diameter of 60 inches of trees are to be removed on properties 40,000 square feet or larger.

Resolution R-18-16 adds fees associated with Forest Conservation Act. Currently, no fees are collected for Forest Conservation Act reviews.

A chart comparing the proposed ordinance with the State's Model Ordinance and previously introduced versions shows the differences in the different versions.

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