

On **March 15, 2018**, the Noise Ordinance Task Force met. As a part of the discussion, the Task Force considered draft language for a proposed permit for businesses to be allowed to use outdoor amplified sound. No motion was made to pass this language on at this time. The Task Force discussed recommending using the special exception process instead of a permit for outdoor amplified sound, but no recommendation for a special exception requirement was agreed upon at this time.

A member of the Task Force made a motion to recommend that the Task Force address the issue of how to handle outdoor music as their first order of business, but that Motion was not seconded. A Motion was then made to address issues of penalties, enforcement and compliance first, and that Motion was also not seconded.

The Task Force then discussed the current Talbot County noise ordinance, amending the decibel requirement in the Talbot County Code to be consistent with state law, the possibility of requiring a noise plan to be submitted along with any request for outdoor music submit with outdoor music requests, and where the sound level measurement should be made for the determination of violations.

The Task Force voted unanimously that any future recommendation for a noise ordinance should include both (1) language which indicates that noise over a certain decibel level is a violation and(2) language which allows a government official to make a determination of a violation without a decibel meter. The Task Force will discuss what specific non-decibel level language should be included at their next meeting on March 22, 2018, at 2:00 pm. and will discuss what decibel level should be used at a later yet to be determined meeting.

Public comments focused on concerns with noise from off road recreational vehicle use, and experience with the transmission of sound over water.

The next meetings of the Task Force will be at the Talbot Community Center, 10228 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD