

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

April 23, 2020



This will be a virtual meeting. Phone and online login information:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 443-961-1463](tel:+14439611463) United States, Baltimore (Toll)

Conference ID: 287 272 714#

Sign in and Introductions

6:00

Review of agenda and Approval of Minutes

Overview of Procedures for Virtual Meetings

Action Items:

6:10

- Crown Castle telecommunications site proposals
 - Sites introduced in January (3) – Discussion, Possible vote
 - Additional sites – Discussion

- Creekside at Cabin Branch Prelim Plan (W Old Balt Rd) – Discussion, Possible vote 6:30

- Second Chance Wildlife Facility, 26400 Haines Rd – Discussion, Possible vote 6:45

- Schaeffer Road Bridge – Discussion, Possible vote 7:00
 - Other CIP Bridges – Discussion, Possible vote

- Heritage Montgomery – request extension of mini grant till Sept 30 7:20
 - Heritage Days postponed to the fall, at the earliest

- Montevideo Bridge Celebration 7:30

- April Retreat: postpone indefinitely or hold virtually 7:40

- Master Plan Update 7:50
 - Next Planning Board briefing – likely in May (online)
 - Proposals for changes to code, regulations
 - Strengthening ways in which RRAC is automatically informed of proposed/pending actions that could affect a rustic road, e.g., a proposed subdivision that touches a rustic road.
 - Schedule delay to allow traffic counts in the fall

Information Items:

8:00

- ZTA 20-01 Solar in the Ag Reserve (update)
- Tree trimming meeting (update)
- Barnesville stormwater project (update)

OVER →

Adjourn

8:30

Next General Meeting: Thursday, May 28, 2020

2020 Events

April Annual RRAC Retreat (Postponed)
June Heritage Days (Postponed)
July Farm Tours
Sept Poolesville Day
Oct Heritage Harvest, Ride for the Reserve
Fall Preserving the Historic Road Conference

2021 World Canals Conference, C&O Canal hosting

Follow ups and future agenda items

- Biennial report
- Planning Board 101
- RRAC brochure with Countryside Artisans (new suggestion)
- Clarify council lobbying restriction
- Rewrite code, regulations, write bylaws
- Realtor disclosure or education
- Fire Department requirements regarding widths, etc
- Roadside Tree Law, Forest Conservation Law, etc
- Narrow bridge funding - federal

2020 Meeting Schedule (the fourth Thursday of each month)

April 23
May 28
June 25
July 23 (tentative)
August 27
September 24
October 22
December 3

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting



Virtual Meeting April 23, 2020

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Darcy Buckley

Linsey Bryant, Executive Administrative Assistant

Members Present:

Bob Tworkowski, Chair

Kamran Sadeghi

Dan Seamans

Laura Van Etten

Bob Wilbur

Leslie Saville, M-NCPPC (non-voting)

Voting Members Absent:

Lonnie Luther

Todd Greenstone

Guests:

Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus

NOTE: This was the RRAC's first virtual meeting since County Boards, Committees and Commissions meetings were restricted from meeting in person due to the COVID-19 health crisis. To allow public participation, the meeting login and phone in information was posted online with the meeting agenda. The March 2020 RRAC meeting was cancelled.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Motion made to approve February 27, 2020, meeting minutes. Minutes approved with an amendment adding description as Rustic/Exceptional Rustic roads.

Action Items:

Crown Castle Telecommunications - Site Proposals (Montevideo Road, exceptional rustic; Glen Road, exceptional rustic; South Glen Road, exceptional rustic; Sugarland Road, exceptional rustic; and Berryville Road, exceptional rustic)

Discussions continued regarding Crown Castle Telecommunications' plans for ground cabinets along rustic roadways in Montgomery County. Crown Castle acquired seven towers with the intention to upgrade Sprint cellular service. Currently, there are three (3) sites before the Department of Technology Services' Tower Committee, two (2) sites have applications pending, and there are two (2) sites that have yet to be applied for. Members are currently reviewing the documentation submitted by Crown Castle, as requested by RRAC during the previous meeting. The Committee voted to support moving the equipment box on the pole to the back of the pole; that any large cabinet be buried and if burial is not possible the Committee voted to oppose all ground furniture; and the Committee voted to approve of the smaller radio head at the top of the pole. Bob Tworkowski agreed to draft the RRAC letter on this matter. The Committee's current recommendations are for the five (5) proposed sites, however the Committee would like to continue to be

advised of any future modifications/changes to plans that involve rustic roads, as it relates to the characteristics and aesthetics of Rustic Roads. A suggestion was made to set up an informational meeting with the Tower Committee and Hearing Examiner to understand procedures and how the committee interacts with conditional-use and zoning cases.

Creekside at Cabin Branch Preliminary Plan (Clarksburg Road and W. Old Baltimore Road, exceptional rustic)

Motion was made and accepted to prepare letter stating the Committee's appreciation that there is no access from Exceptional Rustic W. Old Baltimore Road. In addition, the letter is to include a provision that if the conditions are to change, the Committee review any plans for the changes.

Second Chance Wildlife Facility, 26400 Haines Road (rustic)

Plans for removal of a tree along rustic Haines Road to accommodate a 25 ft wide driveway with a 35 ft wide driveway apron were submitted for the Committee's review and recommendation. The committee supports the tree removal because of the poor condition of the tree.

Discussion about the unusually wide driveway focused on the necessity for the facility's functions. It was noted that FRS standards require that the largest piece of apparatus in the county be accommodated at all locations. This means that narrower roads require wider driveway aprons to allow for emergency vehicles to maneuver. Members agreed to verify the need for the larger apron, if needed by the property owner for facility functions, a motion was made to approve the submitted plans. If the apron is not needed for facility functions, a motion was made to still approve the plans, but draft a letter using this application as an example of the unnecessary permit requirements needed to obtain a permit from Fire and Rescue. It was also noted that the letter should include the committee's belief that County standards don't always apply to Rustic Roads and that plans should be reviewed on case-by-case basis. These motions were approved.

Schaeffer Road Bridge (Significant Feature, rustic)

The Committee has been asked for input on the replacement of the Schaeffer Road Bridge over Little Seneca Creek. The Council designated this bridge as a Significant Feature of the road. Under County code, significant features must be retained. SHA reviewed this bridge previously and determined that it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

MDOT SHA wrote that to qualify for federal funding, they would require a two-lane bridge with a 22' clear roadway as a replacement. MDOT SHA's decision on the needed width of the bridge was based in part on traffic counts taken in the summer of 2011 had an ADT of 2,964. However, based on the February 2020 count of 434 trips, the earlier numbers were believed to be high and a re-count will take place mid-summer 2020. Due to the fact that the road was widened during a recent paving project, MCDOT will reach out to State to see if the decision to replace the bridge would differ if the road was a different width. Based on an assessment, Darcy Buckley has been advised that the bridge's condition needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Members of the committee requested information on how conditions are calculated and assessed in the process of determining bridge conditions. The Committee believes that the bridge should be rehabilitated rather than replaced and widened. Members wish to review/tour proposed project sites involving Rustic Roads prior to submission to County Council as a budget item; this should occur on future projects. The Committee voted to send a letter to MCDOT Director, County Council and Project Managers, requesting that the project not go forward until the Committee has toured the project site and met with the Project Managers.

Heritage Montgomery

Motion was made and approved to prepare a letter to Heritage Montgomery requesting that the mini grant for Rustic Roads Tour brochure be extended from June 30 to September 30, 2020.

Montevideo Bridge Celebration (1910 pony truss bridge on exceptional rustic Montevideo Road)

County Executive staff supports a celebration in June. This may not be possible given the COVID stay-at-home orders. The Committee will brainstorm about alternatives ways to celebrate the project given social-distancing guidelines.

April Retreat

Retreat has been postponed indefinitely. Possibility of virtual tours. The Committee will reach out to outside agencies and Counties for their topics of interest.

Master Plan Updates

Motion was made and approved to draft a letter to the Planning Board requesting that they review/update codes and regulations regarding Rustic Roads. The regulations don't currently reflect the code.

Obtaining traffic counts along rustic roadways is delayed due to COVID-19.

Committee requests automatic review of proposed/pending actions for rustic and non-rustic roads if a Rustic Road is affected. Planning staff (regulatory reviewers) have agreed to this. Darcy will confirm with MCDOT and DPS staff.

Informational Items:

ZTA 20-01 Solar in the Ag Reserve

The comment period is being held open. Update was provided from the Council session held in March 2020. Jane Thompson reported that she had weighed in with the staffer for Councilmember Reimer in support of RRAC's position on solar in the AR.

Tree Trimming

An informational meeting will be scheduled mid-May with County staff, as well as farmers. The purposed of the meeting is for the committee to understand the need and protocols for tree trimming along Rustic Roadways.

Barnesville Stormwater Project

No update.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40