

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM Executive Office Building, Rockville

DGS Large conference room 9th Floor



AGENDA

February 27, 2020

Sign in and Introductions 6:00

Review of agenda

Overview of Process for Meeting Summaries

Strategic Initiatives: 6:15

- County Councilmember briefings

Action Items: 6:20

- Crown Castle telecommunications site proposals
 - Sites introduced in January (3) – Discussion, possible vote
 - Additional sites with Tower Committee packages (2) – Discussion
 - Additional sites without packages -- Discussion

- Davis Mill site visit, recommendations -- Discussion, Possible vote 6:40

- Zion/Riggs, landscape contractor amendment -- Discussion, Possible vote 7:00

- Barnesville stormwater project – Discussion, possible vote 7:15
Letter of support for Chesapeake Bay Trust grant for conceptual design of green infrastructure elements at Barnesville Road (Rustic) and West Harris Road (Exceptional Rustic).

- ZTA 20-01 Solar in the Ag Reserve 7:25
 - March 3rd testimony – Review, Possible vote
 - Individual letters -- Discussion

- Volunteers for nominating committee 7:35
- April retreat – topics and planning 7:45
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Information Items: 8:00

- RRFMP update: PB presentation, work plan update, proposals for changes to code, regulations, bylaws
- Follow ups:
 - Photo op, Montevideo Road bridge (exceptional rustic)
 - Brown Street Name Signs update
 - Sugarland Road repair
 - Big Woods Road
- Tree trimming meeting
- CIP – bridges
- Heritage Montgomery
 - Heritage Days event

OVER →

- Brochure
- RRAC brochure (Sarah Rogers)

Adjourn

8:30

Next General Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2020
Next Working Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2020

2020 Events

April Annual RRAC Retreat
 June Heritage Days
 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)

March 26
 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

EOB, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville MD 20550

9th Floor Large Conference Room



Meeting February 27, 2020

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Darcy Buckley
Linsey Bryant, Executive Administrative Assistant

Members Present:

Kamran Sadeghi
Dan Seamans
Laura Van Etten (via Phone)
Bob Wilbur
Leslie Saville, M-NCPPC (non-voting)

Members Absent:

Bob Tworkowski, Chair
Lonnie Luther
Todd Greenstone

Guests:

Thomas Kable, Crown Castle Telecommunications
Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Action Items:

Crown Castle Telecommunications - Site Proposals (Montevideo Road and Glen Road, both exceptional rustic)

Thomas Kable, representing Crown Castle Telecommunications, discussed and responded to concerns regarding the companies' plans for ground cabinets along rustic roadways in Montgomery County. The company acquired seven towers with the intention to upgrade Sprint cellular service. Currently, there are three sites before the Department of Permitting Services' Tower Committee, two sites have applications pending, and there are two sites that have yet to be applied for. The Committee agreed the equipment should be painted brown to match the surroundings, however there were other concerns that require more information before any recommendations from the Committee. Committee members expressed strong support for placing all equipment on the pole. One concern was the precedent that the approval would set for additional sites in the future. The Committee also questioned the maximum size of the cabinets; would there be room for expansion if another upgrade of services were warranted. In addition, they inquired about the current zoning requirements for the cabinets, as well as a list of other companies that have similar regulations. It was noted that significant features on rustic roads are protected by County code. The follow-up to their inquiries were requested to be in writing.

Davis Mill Road (rustic) Emergency Rehabilitation Project- Site Visit

Members had questions about the type of riprap that is to be used, as well as making accommodations for stormwater management in the area. Clarification on the difference between guardrails (brown vs. galvanized) was also suggested. The Committee approved a motion for a letter to be drafted recommending/requesting an upgraded type of riprap, the use of tar and chip, and that the County not widen the roadway, possible installing "Narrow Road" signage.

Zion Road (rustic)/Riggs Road (rustic) - Landscape Contractor Conditional Use

The Committee approved a motion to give its endorsement to the amended plans, as shown on submitted plans. Pictures were taken by the applicant from various locations on the property of the sea containers. The sea containers were painted dark brown to maintain the rustic visuals.

Barnesville Stormwater Project (Barnesville Road (rustic) and West Harris Road (exceptional rustic)

The Committee approved a motion to draft a letter of support for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant for conceptual design of green infrastructure elements at Barnesville Road and West Harris Road conditional upon the grant recipients working with the Committee so that the design supports the rustic roads' character and visual aesthetics.

ZTA 20-01 Solar in the Ag Reserve

The Committee approved a motion to draft a letter to the County Council on the proposed ZTA, in order to comment on site landscaping as well as Committee review if within a half-mile of a rustic road. The Committee also approved a motion to testify at the hearing on March 3, 2020. It was suggested that individual letters also be submitted.

Nominating Committee

The Committee approved Sadeghi, Wilbur, and Van Etten to constitute the nominating committee for a new member. Todd Greenstone's term ended in December 2019.

April Retreat

Possible date for the retreat April 17, 2020, or April 24, 2020, to be held at Linden Farms. It was suggested that the program's topic be "Trees," to include information on the laws and operations of the County. Buckley said that MCDOT would provide lunch at the event.

Information Items:

RRFMP Update

- Committee can ask for updates to Code and Regs in the Implementation section of the RRFMP

- Addition of two, possibly, at-large members is needed, as well as conformity with diversity requirements
- Technical corrections are needed - there were amendments to our Code section calling RRAC a Commission; those could be corrected
- Need to conduct site visits to update road specifications/review current roads by early May per Saville

Follow-ups

- Photo op, Montevideo Road bridge (exceptional rustic) –Buckley is working on scheduling this.
- Brown Street Name signs – Sign shop will have equipment to produce signs in-house in 3 months.
- Sugarland Road Repair (rustic segment west of Sugarland Lane)– Committee has concerns about the County’s delay of evaluating roadway issues. They believe that the repairs have failed and should be addressed prior to waiting until summer to reevaluate roadway conditions.
- Big Woods Road (rustic)– Area that was cut back and filled with millings will be sodded in the spring.

Tree Trimming Meeting

- The Committee agreed that April and May work session dates would be possible meeting dates.

CIP – Bridges

- The Committee would like to invite MCDOT staff to the next meeting for clarification on funding.

Heritage Montgomery

- Heritage Days event – Event will be held June 27-28, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The committee will research possible sites within the week.

RRAC Brochure (Sarah Rogers)

- No update

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30