

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom



Virtual Meeting October 22, 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
Anne Davies
Leslie Saville, M-NCPPC (non-voting)

Members Absent:

Lonnie Luther

Guests:

Jane Thompson, RRAC Member Emeritus

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

Action Items:

Meeting Minutes: August 2020 and September 2020

Minutes for August were unanimously approved, as there was not a quorum at last month's meeting. September minutes approved with corrections.

Wilson Delay Lot 1, West Hunter Road (rustic): Proposed Driveway

Developer submitted application showing driveway exiting the protected hedgerow along West Hunter Road. Advised that the area is a protected significant feature and additional mitigation for loss of hedgerow would be required. Suggest that applicant re-submit plans to include mitigations. Committee to conduct site visit within the next two weeks to get better reference for location of driveway and mitigations that may be needed. Developer indicated need for letter in order to go before the Planning Board therefore, committee approved motions to draft letter as condition of approval, which includes requirements of: finalize driveway location and mitigation for impacted trees.

Tree Trimming Guidelines

The committee received response from MCDOT Highway Services and are appreciative of their efforts to work with RRAC. Committee acknowledges need for all requests for tree work to go through the County Arborist. Concerns remain regarding the use of brush-hog machine; committee moved to draft a response addressing remaining concern.

Bylaws

Bylaws were re-drafted and reviewed by the committee; made change regarding proxy voting being established toward a quorum, sub-committee approvals, as well as nominating committee guidance. Committee approved amendments to RRAC Bylaws.

Discussions:

MDOT Bridges Presentation - Takeaways

RRAC members, MCDOT representatives, and community historic preservation experts met virtually with MDOT's architectural historian to understand parameters for historic bridge rehab/repair funding. It was suggested that the committee explain Rustic Road laws to State road engineers, so that they understand why RRAC makes certain requests. Unsure that County engineers are aware of National Register bridges; recommend meeting with SHA and MCDOT staff to review laws so that all agencies and RRAC have same understanding of guidelines.

Thank you to County Executive

Committee to draft thank you letter to County Executive for his support of the RR Program and express interest in creating new regulations supporting the mission of the rustic road program, and conforming the regs with County law.

Glen Road – Site Visit

Committee to schedule site visit. There are some concerns with the safety along roadway to get to bridge. Postpone until foliage has fallen and more accessible. Committee may conduct staggered site visits, as the project manager feels the area is not safe for a group.

River Road – Site visit

Postponed scheduling visit until December 2020.

Tower Committee Follow-Up

Committee requests that the Tower Committee include whether proposed tower locations are along a Rustic Road as part of the initial application package. The County Attorney was asked to advise, and a follow-up meeting is to be scheduled to discuss. Also requested were the zoning regulations that are part of the evaluation process. Leslie Saville to follow up.

Informational Items:

Thrive 2020

Proposed drafting a letter to incorporate Rustic Roads program/initiative in to the Thrive 2020 Plan. Committee to review and comment prior to submission.

Big Woods Road

MCDOT was to clear millings from along roadway and replace with other material. Follow-up required.

Comus Road @ 109 – Cameras

Committee relayed crash data for this intersection to SHA. The committee received an email indicating the area may warrant a speed camera and included information on how to begin the process. Committee plans to submit request.

Master Plan Update: Planning Board Update, November 5, 2020

Darnestown Civic Association made nomination to add roads to the Master Plan: Seneca Road, the old alignment of River Road, Bucklodge Road and Barnesville Road.

Adjourn

8:04 p.m.