

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom



Virtual Meeting January 28, 2021

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Darcy Buckley
Linsey Bryant, Executive Administrative Assistant
Lauren Campbell, M-NCPPC
Patrick Butler, Division Chief, Up-County Planning

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Bob Tworkowski, Chair
Lonnie Luther

Guests:

Jenny Freeman, Property Owner
Josh Maisel, Engineer, Benning & Associates

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Action Items:

Meeting Minutes: October 2020 and December 2020

Minutes approved for October 2020 and December 2020 unanimously.

Freeman Property – Driveway Sugarland Road (Exceptional Rustic)

A subcommittee met on-site to review/discuss tree removal options and/or mitigation and requested that the property owner and engineer revise the plan to address concerns about tree removal 40 feet back from the road's edge. Mr. Maisel presented a new plan calling for only four trees to be removed. Concerns were discussed about the need for 40-foot-wide driveway apron; Maisel informed committee that the apron must be able to accommodate the largest Fire & Rescue vehicle in the County since road width is less than 20-foot-wide and explained the auto-cad software used to calculate that apron width. Committee approved request to move forward with the plans for the driveway apron with the proposed width, acknowledging that should changes be made to the turning radius requirements, the committee would concur with a smaller apron width.

Patrick Butler offered to assist the Committee in seeking ways to reduce driveway aprons based upon his experience in urban areas.

Confirmation of New Chair

Laura Van Etten was nominated as the new chairperson, replacing Bob Tworkowski, during the previous meeting. Committee voted and unanimously approved Laura's nomination for Chair.

Moore Road (Rustic) – Access via Park Property

A subcommittee conducted a site visit over concern that a driveway was being installed without permit; however, that was not the issue; property owner was clearing invasive trees and undergrowth for future pasture fencing. The property owner asked RRAC to assist in seeking permission to share the existing driveway to Great and Small Therapeutic Riding Center (Parks property). The Committee agreed to draft a letter of support for this to the Parks Department.

Glen Road Bridge over Piney Branch (Exceptional Rustic)

Discussion regarding the widening of the bridge from 20 to 22 feet in order to allow MCDOT to receive federal funding through SHA. Committee approved plans to widen the bridge in order to accept federal funding, noting that County Regulations restrict widening on exceptional rustic roads, but since the roadway approach would remain 20 feet this exception would be approved. Site visits were discussed noting that the bridge was not a significant feature and that there were no attractive railings. Letter also will note that there should be no significant tree removal and that there should be no widening of the approach to the bridge.

Old Hundred Road (Rustic) Speed Camera Request

Committee is requesting speed cameras be installed on Old Hundred Road, north and south of the intersection with Comus Road. Letter was drafted and distributed to the committee for comments and this letter draft was approved to send.

Zion Road (Rustic)

Landscape manager is preparing the TSL (type, size, location) plans to submit their final two options before being presented to the committee for review.

Discussions:

Master Plan Update & Map Review

There are 24 roads nominated and will be sent to the Planning Board in March for review. Comments can be submitted at <https://mcatlas.org/rusticroads/>

Meeting with MCDOT, Tim Cupples: Takeaway

Committee requested bridge information table be distributed to members for the rustic roads specifically.

General Discussion

The Committee discussed gathering information in simple documents for a range of concerns regarding rustic roads (bridges, funding, forestry, etc.) so it would be easily accessible for future committee members.

Information Items:

River Road

Darcy updated the Committee with the information that the maintenance plan was in its final stage. Richard Kingsley is handling this project, and the intent is to use the same collaborative approach that was used on Santini Rd.

Adjourn

8:06 p.m.