

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom –



Virtual Meeting July 22, 2021

Attendees:

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

Members Present:

Laura Van Etten, Chair
Anne Davies
Kamran Sadeghi
Dan Seamans

Absent Members:

Bob Wilbur

Guests:

Lauren Campbell, M-NCPPC
Leslie Seville, Heritage Montgomery and Member Emeritus
Jamey Pratt, M-NCPPC
Donnell Ziegler, M-NCPPC

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

Guest Discussion:

Introduction:

The new Up-County Planning Supervisor, Donnell Ziegler, introduced himself to the committee.

Action Items:

Schaeffer Road Bridge Railings

Committee reviewed proposed railing designs for Schaeffer Road bridge; none were appealing to members. Discussion as to why current railings couldn't be used revealed that when repairing/replacing structures, there is a requirement to meet current safety standards (MASH). Members are reviewing requirements for federal funding and possible design exceptions. Subcommittee formed to review design/planning efforts for historic and one-lane bridges. Committee will continue to review possible railing options.

Monopole Request – 22900 Old Hundred Road

Balloon test was conducted for the possible installation of a cell tower. Members visited the site to assess the potential visibility of the balloon (cell tower) if approved for installation. The balloon seemed to be barely visible due to the air quality and the angle of the sun. Committee drafting letter requesting plans and photo simulations of proposed tower site prior to committee recommendation.

Driveway Request – 23020 Peach Tree Road, Child Lots

Department of Permitting Services (DPS) granted driveway permit without recommendation from RRAC and prior to M-NCPPC approval of forest conservation plan. Committee expressed concern regarding forest conservation approvals occurring before RRAC site visit and lack of communication to the committee prior to approval of the permit; letter to Planning and DPS.

Solar Project – 16925 Black Rock Road

Discussion on submitted concept plan. Committee approved drafting an introduction letter to applicant educating them about RRAC and the priorities of the committee.

Discussion Items:

MCDOT RRAC Outreach

Committee interested in expanding relationship with MCDOT staff to coordinate safety/maintenance efforts along rustic roads - Traffic Engineering, Transportation Engineering.

RRAC Nominee Roads

A proposal was made and approved to draft letter to MCDOT Director requesting that RRAC review scheduled maintenance/repairs along roads that are nominated for being designated as rustic. Suggestion was also made to seek provisions in plans submitted to Council.

Gravel Road Webinar

Committee discussed webinar on treatment and maintenance of gravel roads by Penn State. Webinar was distributed to MCDOT staff for review.

Potomac Edison Tree Clearing

Committee to conduct site visit with MCDOT and Potomac Edison. Concern about excessive pruning and cutting of the hedgerows without permission.

Tree Trimming Guidelines

Working on final draft to MCDOT.

Informational Items:

Rustic Road Histories – Coordination with Street Naming Review Project

Committee was provided list of roads; Historic Preservation Committee is requesting assistance from RRAC in researching the historical background of rustic road street names as it relates to the legal requirements for equity. Committee to draft letter in support of coordinating tasks with the Historic Preservation Committee.

Roadside Tree Law

RRAC proposed scheduling introductory meeting with County staff to review roadside tree laws.

Adjourn

8:00 p.m.