

## **RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom



### **Virtual Meeting February 2, 2023**

#### **Attendees:**

##### **Members Present:**

Laura Van Etten, Chair

Anne Davies

Barbara Hoover

Kamran Sadeghi

Dan Seamans

Elena Shuvalov

Jamey Pratt (non-voting)

##### **MCDOT Staff Coordinator:** Darcy Buckley

Linsey Bryant, Management & Budget Specialist I

Tawanda Johnson, Executive Administrative Aide

#### **Guests:**

Leslie Seville, Member Emeritus

Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus

Kevin Foster, GWL Planning, Sandy Spring Museum

Allison Weiss, Executive Director, Sandy Spring Museum

Scott Knudsen, Architect, Sandy Spring Museum

Pritam Arora, P.E.

Marcia Kingman, League of Women Voters

Linda Bergofsky, LWV Poolesville

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

Meeting minutes for October and December were approved.

#### **Action Items:**

##### **Arora Estates Preliminary Plan 120230050, 10400 Boswell & 12900 Glen Mill Road – Pritam Arora, P.E.**

Applicant agreed to decrease the width of driveway to 10 feet in the ROW for the two new lots on Glen Mill Road, widening inside the ROW to 12 feet instead of 15 feet. Aprons will be 5 feet on either side. Committee approved the application based upon these changes.

##### **Sandy Spring Museum Preliminary Plan Amendment 11996032B and Site Plan Amendment 81996010B for new exit driveway on Bentley Road -- Kevin Foster, Scott Knudsen**

Application for “exit only” driveway onto Bentley Road was reviewed, as well as a granite-gravel path along the roadside trees in connection with the museum’s planned renovations. The original plans for the property included a second driveway onto Bentley Road which was never installed; a clearing currently exists; therefore, no trees would be removed for the driveway installation. Members inquired about the purpose of the path; it was explained that the path is intended to connect the site as visitors view the exterior art exhibits. Concern was expressed over tree removals; however, none will be removed in relation to improvements, but due to declining health of the trees – red maples in poor condition will be removed. Request was made for more shade trees and ornamentals. Planner states that 25 trees

were planted on the site last year and 25 more will be planted this year. Committee members and the applicant discussed possible solutions to stormwater management improvements, if required. The Committee voted to support the submitted plans, encouraging no removal of healthy trees for the proposed path and, if possible, additional trees to be planted. Museum representatives agreed to a suggestion by Kamran Sadeghi for interpretive or informational signage regarding rustic Bentley Road.

#### **Howard Property, Admin. Subdivision Plan 620230020, Batchellors Forest Road -- MCDOT formal request for sidewalk**

It was brought to the attention of the Committee that MCDOT wrote to the Planning Department seeking a sidewalk on this road, despite hearing opposition expressed to it by RRAC and residents at a previous meeting. While RE-2 zoning triggers a sidewalk installation, this property is surrounded by RNC zoning, which does not. There is nearby open space protected by the Master Plan which has no sidewalk. No nearby properties are expected to build a sidewalk. Committee voted to send a letter to the Planning Department expressing opposition to a sidewalk on the rustic road.

#### **River Road – MCDOT Highway Services new proposal for asbestos encapsulation**

The Committee reviewed an updated proposal from MCDOT for encapsulating the asbestos on River Road and the potential installation of rip-rap around the culverts. Members oppose MCDOT's recommendation of the tar & chip process for encapsulating the asbestos. Discussion followed regarding the proposed 12-in of additional gravel aggregate needed – MCDOT explained that 150-feet of tapering would be needed to level the road effectively and safely. Members conducted a site visit and shared photos of what they observed - approximately 18-inch-deep entrenchment along the road where it is possible to add the 12 inches of gravel product suggested in the Penn State training. Culverts mentioned are outside the asbestos area. Members voted to write a letter to request use of the Penn State Driving Surface Aggregate gravel option as the method of repair, with roadside edges backfilled with geo-cell or other grass pavers, soil, and grass.

#### **Discussion:**

#### **CIP Budget Request – Crash-testing of Railings: Steel-backed Timber and Pierced Concrete**

Committee approved RRAC drafting a letter to the CE proposing the addition of funding for crash-testing bridge steel-backed timber railings in the operating/CIP budget. Cost estimated to be approximately \$80,000. FHWA approval is needed in order to utilize this type of railing. It was determined that because the pierced concrete would not be widely used, no funding should be requested for testing that railing type.

#### **Information Item:**

#### **African American Heritage Trail Hike**

Hike along the history trail to take place in March/April.

#### **Tucker Lane – Culvert Replacement**

Road edges collapsing in certain areas; in need of repair in conjunction with culvert replacement.

#### **Chapingo – Board of Appeals**

Board of Appeals differs from Hearing Examiner; RRAC and all others against missed deadline to submit testimony opposing the appeal. Case was remanded back to the Hearing Examiner.

#### **12901 Travilah Road (DPS Referral) - Driveway Relocation on Stoney Creek**

Subcommittee met on site to review this as requested by DPS. Driveway relocation was supported as septic location prevented use of Travilah Road driveway, owner agreed to reduce driveway size to ten-foot wide with five-foot wide wings on each side at the road, and no roadside trees in good condition were threatened (there is no ROW to protect trees). Response was by email to Chris Myers at DPS.

**Master Plan Public Hearing Work Sessions**

Members expressed concern that MCDOT does not consider RRAC when at table before Planning Board.

**Adjourn****8:09 p.m.**