

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom



Virtual Meeting August 24, 2023

Attendees:

Members Present:

Laura Van Etten, Chair

Anne Davies

Barbara Hoover

Elena Shuvalov

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Christina Contreras

Tawanda Johnson, Executive Administrative Aide

Guests:

Roberto Duke, Planning Department

Brian Copley, MCDOT Division of Transportation Engineering

Peter Ciferri, Attorney, Alder Energy Development, LLC

Don Zimmerman, CEO, Alder Energy Development, LLC

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Meeting minutes for May and July were approved.

Action Items:

Community Solar Project CU-202404 along Gregg Road near Zion Road

Alder Energy Development, LLC – Peter Ciferri and Don Zimmerman

Conditional use application resubmission, solar panels more clustered on less land. Existing hedgerow plus 30-foot landscape buffer said to provide good screening for views from roads. RRAC will provide verbal approval going forward and Planning Department staff will take comments back. Committee approved support for solar project based upon plantings showing screening for views from the rustic roads. Roberto Duke to report to lead planner Jonathan Casey.

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Bridges – Brian Copley, MCDOT

Burnt Hill Road Bridge (M-0157) 30% TS&L plans: Brian to investigate proposed widening from 18'1" to 20'.

Federal exemption should be sought/secured to get funding for bridges in Rustic Road programs. RRAC objects to widening. This bridge is a Significant Feature of the road. From Ch. 49 of County Code: (d) Significant features. When the Council classifies a road as a rustic road or an exceptional rustic road, the Council must identify the significant features of each such road that must be preserved when the road is maintained or improved. Committee has been asking MCDOT to push harder on MDOT/SHA to issue exemptions to allow federal funding for bridges that are in the Rustic Roads Program. RRAC has been advised by MCDOT staff that these requests need to be sought affirmatively in order to secure exemptions because MDOT is not forthcoming with providing them even though the funds are available.

Glen Road Bridge (M-0148) 90% TS&L plans: No. 2 Width of Bridge – Please explain skew angle adding 7-1/2” to width. No. 3 Chain Link Fencing –Committee supports Brian Copley’s goal of eliminating the fencing altogether as there is no foot traffic at that location; otherwise, Committee would like to see alternatives for metal fencing. No. 5 Rip Rap –Committee abandons request for vegetative rip rap.

Schaeffer Road Bridge (M-1037) 30% TS&L plans: see note on page 2 on plans that RRAC be consulted for new railing choice. The current plan does not reflect the Committee’s choice for the railing/parapet. Committee motioned and approved to support page 2 as RRAC comment.

Development Review Committee (DRC) items for Planning Department – no new information at this time.

Discussion Items:

Chapingo LLC

Conditional use request was denied by Hearing Examiner on remand. Issue has gone back to Board of Appeals. No RRAC action necessary at this time.

MCA Ride for the Reserve

September 24, 2023 – volunteers for public outreach opportunity. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Linden Farm. Christina to check with MCG Print Shop on brochure printing.

MCDOT Director Conklin

Committee agreed to request MCDOT commitment to use Penn State approved DSA product and process on another rustic road by end of 2024.

Information Items:

Andrew Baker (Burnt Hill Farm, LLC) 25001 Burnt Hill Road – DPS and Soil Conservation driveways. approvals to be approved by email instead of waiting for a meeting in order to provide a timely response. Driveway was approved and Soil Conservation notified.

Poolesville Day -- Saturday 9/23.

Adjourn

7:26 p.m.