

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

6:00-9:00 PM

Held on Zoom



Virtual Meeting September 28, 2023

Attendees:

Members:

Laura Van Etten, Chair

Anne Davies

Barbara Hoover

Dan Seamans

Elena Shuvalov

Jamey Pratt, non-voting

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Christina Contreras
Tawanda Johnson, Executive Administrative Aide

Guests:

Brian Donnelly, Project Manager, MHG for Windolph Subdivision Plan

Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

August minutes were approved by RRAC.

Action Items

ROW Plans (DPS Permit No. 395623) – White Ground Road and Darnestown Road

Single-story office building construction at intersection of White Ground Road at Darnestown Road. Lot is 32 acres on sand mound well & septic. Neighborhood Retail (NR) zoning. 9500 sf space to house up to 30 employees as a satellite office for Rickman construction company with room for storing plans and materials. 20-foot wide driveway with 50-foot turning radius required by FRS, gravel will be eliminated and some turf will be added in areas. A mix of tree plantings along White Ground Road will include large and medium shade trees and small evergreens. Low profile water cistern to sit behind building for firefighting. Construction to start in Spring 2024. Brian Donnelly requested written Committee approval of plans to DOT and DPS. RRAC approved based upon trees providing screening of views; email to be sent by Staff Coordinator and shared with Committee.

Development Review Projects – Planning Department

Jonathan Casey wished to ensure Committee reviewed most recent plans from last month's meeting. Roberto Duke had attended for Jamey Pratt and was unaware of new procedure that comments by RRAC are reported to the Planning Department lead staffer by Jamey Pratt or his representative. MCDOT Staff Coordinator will confirm RRAC comments to third parties in real-time by email as needed.

Burnt Hill Road Bridge (M-0157)

RRAC supports widening to 20 feet.

Railing Choice for Shaeffer Road

Dan stated what he has proposed to Boyd's Civic Association regarding preference for any new railings. Greg Hwang, MCDOT engineer, could duplicate a historical parapet around the metal structure. The "W" beam railings could be a historic feature for the bridge. The public hearing comment date was extended at the request of Boyd's Civic to October 27. RRAC will take no position at this time. Dan to continue to follow.

Discussion Items

River Road – update on DSA application failure

Laura and Barbara reported on zoom meeting with Director Conklin. MCDOT did not use correct product, used a quarry not known to Penn State, did not have Driving Surface Aggregate properly tested. It appears that dust suppressant was added to the DSA which Penn State has noted will result in the road surface failing to dry, as occurred on River Road. RRAC asked for another test case to use process on another roadway because of failure; Conklin wishes to assess costs of other proper maintenance procedures as an alternative.

White Ground Road Bridge

Damaged caused by logging truck with trailer – request for signage made to Traffic Engineering – staff confirmed signage. One-lane bridge sign close to bridge needs to be further back to allow vehicles to turnback.

Elton Farm Road

It was noted that Council T&E Committee had discussed removing gravel road surface as a significant feature of the road to permit maintenance improvements.

Information Items

RRAC member retirements/Member Emeritus information

Laura and Anne to have member emeritus status and continue to receive information following the November 6 effective date of their resignations.

Biennial Report

Being drafted by Laura, will be circulated.

Maintenance practices and RRFMP bullet point summary for MCDOT use

As discussed with Director Conklin, to be drafted and circulated by Laura.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.