



Status of Montgomery County's

Rustic Roads Program

2016 to 2024



Status of the Rustic Roads Program

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2024

This report has been prepared by the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee, which oversees the Rustic Roads Program. Information about upcoming meetings and the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan is available online here:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/>

For those who wish to appear before the Committee or for further assistance please contact our Staff Coordinator at MCDOT:

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Rustic Roads Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Thursday of the month, at least six times per year, at 7:00 p.m., either in person or by remote access (please check the website for details of upcoming meetings).

Cover Photo: Greenbridge Road leading to Triadelphia Reservoir

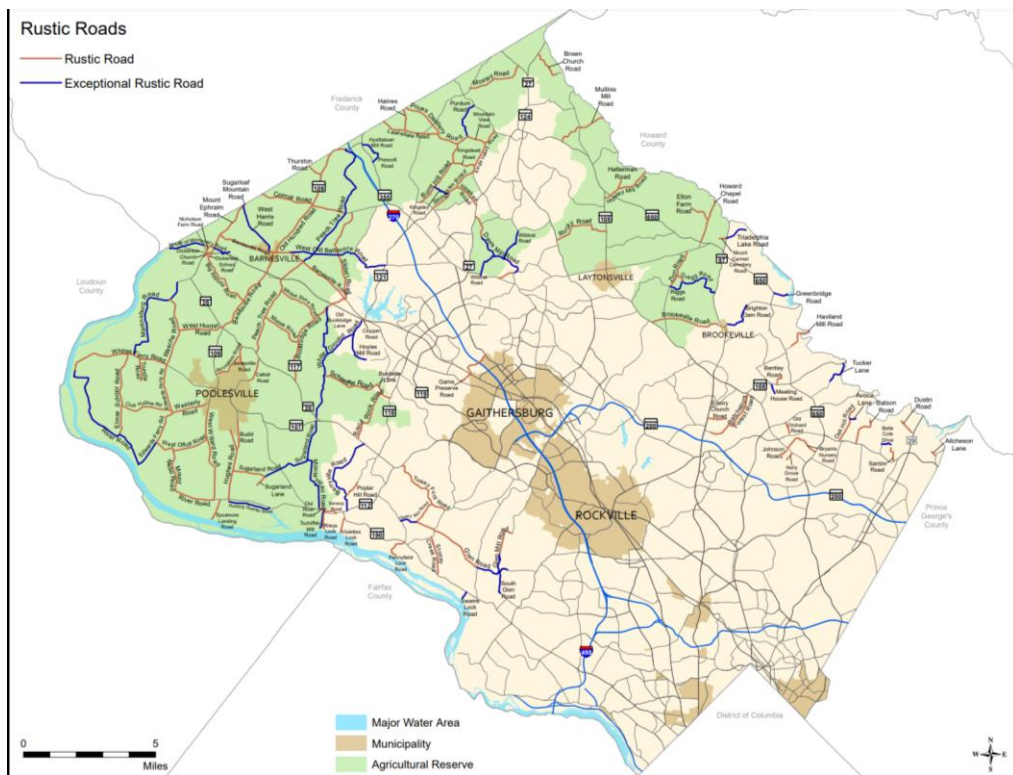
RUSTIC ROADS PROGRAM

2016 to 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

In Montgomery County, there are 114 roads classified as rustic or exceptional rustic. These roads “are historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the county. The roadways provide the county with opportunities for heritage tours and economic development. Preserving rustic roads is an important way to relay the county’s history to future generations.” (Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan, p. 1). The Rustic Roads Program (Article 8, Chapter 49, Montgomery County Code) establishes the authority for the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee (RRAC) and sets forth duties that the Committee must perform. One of those duties is to prepare this report in even numbered years. This report summarizes the period from mid-2016 to May, 2024. Due to critical shortages and changes in staffing, the COVID Pandemic of 2020-2022, and the demands of the revision of the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan in 2020-2023, reports were not issued since 2017.

Other duties of the RRAC include promoting public awareness of the program, evaluating rustic roadway classifications, reviewing county regulations and policies which affect rustic roads, and advising on the significant features that must be preserved when a rustic road is scheduled for maintenance or improvement.



II. ITEMS BEFORE THE RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 2016 to 2024

2016

Committee business matters in 2016 included:

- Poplar Hill Road review
- Conditional use equestrian facility for two horses: 14975 Sugarland Road
- Site visits for cistern installations (Club Hollow Road follow-up)
- 11731 Glen Mill Road review
- Nomination of Clopper Road for designation as a Rustic Road
- An Educational Retreat was held in August with speakers Gwen Wright, director, Montgomery County Planning Department; Glenn Orlin; deputy council administrator, Montgomery County; and Maria Martin, supervisor, Prince Georges County Planning Department and former non-voting Planning Board appointee to discuss the origins of the program and strategic planning for the future.

2017

RRAC Member (and 2018 Committee Chair) Bob Tworkowski arranged for the design of a logo for the Brown Street Name Signs and other Rustic Roads Program uses. Rodger Nelson of Batchellors Forest Road designed the logo, which is now used on all Committee documents as well as on the Brown Street Name Signs.



Logos were applied to the first signs by a contractor, and as of 2023 the signs are made in-house by MCDOT.

Committee business matters in 2017 included:

- The Committee developed By-Laws governing elections of officers and interviewing applicants for Committee membership.

- Work was done with the town of Barnesville to develop acceptable walkways in this small incorporated and historic hamlet to protect roadside trees and facilitate foot traffic.
- Multiple preliminary plans for roadway access and tree removal were reviewed, including Glen Road, Elmer School Road, Club Hollow Road, Budd Road, Glen Mill Road, Moore Road, Burdette Lane, Query Mill Road, Old Hundred Road, and Cattail Road.
- Further review was undertaken of Clopper Road for designation as a Rustic Road in Boyds Historic District.
- Committee Chair Bob Tworkowski represented RRAC on a County Agritourism Study Group.
- Penn State University experts on Dirt, Gravel, and low volume roads met on-site with the Committee and MCDOT maintenance staff to make recommendations on management of gravel roads.
- The County Council appropriated \$25,000 to begin the rustic roads special signage program.
- Open Meetings Act training was now required and Committee members complied.

2018

In April 2018 a formal announcement was held celebrating the Brown Logo Street Name Signs project at the intersection of Martinsburg Road (exceptional rustic) and Wasche Road (rustic) with presentations by County Executive Ike Leggett and Councilmembers Marc Elrich and Roger Berliner.



In October 2018 the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee was awarded the 2018 Royce Hanson Award by Montgomery Countryside Alliance. The award recognized the Committee's outstanding commitment toward protection of the Agricultural Reserve.



Committee business matters in 2018 included:

- Zion Road and Zion Road Bridge (M-0120) review
- Conditional Use Application for 21201 Zion Road
- Brown Street Name Signs updates
- Tree Trimming – Bob Cissel correspondence on behalf of Montgomery Ag Producers; RRAC members undertook driving problem roads for review.
- In mid-June an Educational Retreat was held with Keynote speaker Dan Marriott, a prominent landscape architect formerly with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the author of widely referenced books on historic roads.
- Gravel Roads – address dust concerns – Committee members researched dust suppressant alternatives used successfully in Frederick County and recommended the use of Calcium Chloride as used in that County.

- Educational and promotional outreach proposals were considered – outreach to civic associations, mailings to property owners on rustic roads, bumper stickers, brochure
- Glenstone (Glen Road) – new access point
- Rileys Lock Road project for disabled veterans (Parks Dept) – Seneca Landing
- Beallsville Road - Beallsville Volunteer Fire Department construction
- White Ground Road – inappropriate tree trimming addressed
- Stoney Creek Road driveway review
- Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board meeting – attend Oct 22
- Heritage Montgomery -- proposed meeting to discuss brochure or presentation
- A regional Retreat was held in May to review with other jurisdictions how rural and rustic type roads are handled in our region.



The Committee staffed a tent for promotional outreach at the 2018 Field & Fiddle event for Madison Fields (Autism non-profit) and Montgomery Countryside Alliance (Ag Reserve non-profit).

2019



In March 2019 the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee was awarded the prestigious Montgomery Preservation Inc's Montgomery Prize – the organization's most prestigious award – in recognition of the Committee's continuous, outstanding achievement in furthering history and preservation in Montgomery County.

Councilmember Andrew Friedson presented the award.



Committee business matters in 2019 included:

- Potter Property (Query Mill and Glen Roads) – driveway access review
- The need for Staff Coordinator support was discussed
- Right-of-Way discussions
- Tree trimming/removal review
- Brookeville cell tower review
- Annual retreat planning
- Meetings with Councilmembers to advise on RRs in districts
- Martinsburg Road, exceptional rustic and MPHP designated – ash disposal routing
- Heritage Harvest event planning (Oct 5, Linden Farm, Martinsburg Road)
- J&M Andrews Farm (620190110), Westerly Road driveways
- Repairs to West Old Baltimore Road
- Scenic Byways legislation correspondence and updates
- Correspondence with State Sen. Brian Feldman
- Signage issues in the Glen
- Incorrect Adopt a Rustic Road signs
- Adopt a Rustic Road Program – presentation by Roselle Paquette
- Davis Mill Road - storm damage
- Belle Cote Drive maintenance (rustic portion; dedicated but unmaintained portion)
- Oak Hill Road driveway review
- Darcy Buckley, MCDOT Director’s Office – Introduction as new Staff Coordinator, Dec. 5
- Review Glen Road Bridge at Sandy Branch (M-0148) and Mouth of Monocacy Bridge at Little Monocacy River (M-0043)
- Exec Office Information Request: River Road dust Issue
- Coordination with MCDOT Field Ops: Big Woods Road; Sugarland Road
- Request signage consolidation in the Glen
- Site visits held:
 - Howard Chapel Road, culvert replacement – with MCDOT
 - Howard Chapel Road -- Waredaca driveway
 - River Road – culverts – with MCDOT

- Batchellors Forest Road – Good Council student crossing
- Clopper Road sidewalk proposal – with SHA, HP staff
- Mouth of Monocacy Road Bridge (M-0043) superstructure replacement
- River Road (finish culvert inventory)
- Batchellors Forest, Tucker, Brookeville Roads (speeding concerns)

2020

Committee business matters in 2020 included:

- Crown Castle Telecommunications - Site Proposals
- Davis Mill Emergency Rehabilitation Project - site visit
- Zion/Riggs Roads - landscape contractor Conditional Use
- Barnesville Stormwater Project
- ZTA 20-01 Solar in the Ag Reserve – position paper
- Second Chance Wildlife Facility, 26400 Haines Road
- Schaeffer Road Bridge (M-0137) – initial review
- Slaughterhouse: 18915 Barnesville Road - Rustic (Conditional Use)
- Equestrian Facility: 14975 Sugarland Road
- Tree Trimming Meeting --The Committee held a virtual meeting on May 14, 2020 led by Special Assistant to the County Executive Dale Tibbitts, and with MCDOT arborist Brett Linkletter. Also in attendance were Jeremy Criss (Office of Agriculture) and Bob Cissel (Montgomery Ag Producers). The Committee agreed to provide Tibbitts and Linkletter with a list of roads that had tree canopies as significant features. The Committee clarified that all tree trimming requests be submitted to Brett Linkletter, Arborist, prioritizing roads affected by farm equipment. In addition, the Committee will propose tree trimming guidelines.
- Santini Road – Maintenance Review on site in cooperation with MCDOT Pavement Management
- West Willard Road – Poolesville Golf Course (Entrance Design)
- Landscape Contractor, review CU 202007, 3731 Damascus Rd at Howard Chapel Road
- Schaeffer Road Bridge (M-0137) -- site visit with MCDOT
- RRAC Bylaws –Bylaws were drafted and unanimously approved. Changes regarding proxy voting, sub-committee approvals, as well as nominating committee guidance were approved as amendments.
- Trundle Road – Approval requested for driveway apron
- Curb request, Prices Distillery Road and Clarksburg Road (country arterial)
- Vision Zero Plan and Priorities
- Montevideo Road near Sugarland Road --chevron signage requested for sharp turn
- Complete Streets Design Guide -- review and letter of support
- River Road (gravel dust suppressant) – plan site visit
- Preliminary Plan 120200180, Kilmain Etc. – West Hunter and Wasche Roads
- Glen Road Bridge (M-0148) – review bridge replacement plans over Sandy Branch
- Thrive Montgomery 2050 -- Response from RRAC sought
- 15110 Sugarland Road, proposed driveway
- Master Plan Update – Committee reviewed three proposed layout options of Master Plan maps

- County Tower Commission (CTC) Chair – briefing
- Ruck Property (Application #62019012), 7304 Rocky Road
- Wilson Delay Lot 1, West Hunter Road – proposed driveway
- Mouth of Monocacy Bridge –deck replacement review
- Stringtown Road – Daycare Center site access review
- Zoom Meeting with Tim Cupples, MCDOT covering bridge engineering and construction
- Master Plan Update received from Planning Department – Planning received nominations for Seneca Road, Bucklodge Road, and Barnesville Road to be included as Rustic Roads on the Master Plan – Committee suggested site visits, and expressed concern about high volume of traffic on Barnesville Road.
- River Road – Property owner Lewis expresses support for gravel road surface; seeks dust mitigation and roadside repairs. Request meeting with MCDOT.

2021

Committee business matters in 2021 included:

- Moore Road – access via Park Property
- Glen Road Bridge over Piney Branch (M-0015) – review TS&L plans
- Sandy Spring Village, Concept Plan – 17810 Meeting House Road
- 21721 Peach Tree Road – driveway
- 23208 Peach Tree Road – driveway
- Tobytown Bus Turnaround – Pennyfield Lock Road
- Conditional Use, Landscape Contractor – 12120 Prices Distillery Road
- Glen Road Bridge over Sandy Branch (M-0148) – Concerns of Glenstone Museum with design; site visit and letter of support for Glenstone position
- Brighton Dam Road – Pavement Striping – meeting with Mark Terry, Chief, Traffic Engineering Studies, MCDOT
- J&M Andrews Farm – Westerly Road
- 19120 Jerusalem Road – driveway
- Patrick Butler – Montgomery Planning, meeting re: Regulatory Process
- Monopole Request – 22900 Old Hundred Road
- Solar Project – 16925 Black Rock Road
- Gravel Road Webinar – distributed to MCDOT staff for review
- Potomac Edison Tree Clearing -- Committee to conduct site visit with MCDOT and Potomac Edison. Concern about excessive clear cutting of the hedgerows without permission.
- Review roadway designations for Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan
- Driveway at 17125 Batchellors Forest Road, Hyde Property
- South Glen Road – asphalt curb
- Frederick County Rural Roads discussion
- Master Plan Update – Members completed written updates of driving experiences along 30 roads

- Video and Tour Brochure Updates – met with Heritage Montgomery to work on the creation of Rustic Roads video tour brochure showcasing the scenic views and experiences along rustic roads
- Belt Property, driveway on Peach Tree Road
- Exceptional Rustic Designation of Roads – Committee voted to recommend exceptional rustic designation for Wildcat Road, Davis Mill Road, Brighton Dam Road (current rustic section), Riggs Road, Query Mill Road (western section), and Peach Tree Road (northern section).
- Barnesville Roads – Request from Town of Barnesville to remain in RRAC Program
- Master Plan Update – reviewed Rustic Roads as they relate to the requirements set regarding Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Primary Management Areas (PMA).
- River Road – Site visit to review completed work on culvert replacements
- Tree Trimming Guidelines – agreement reached with MCDOT over principles regarding appropriate tree trimming

2022



In early 2022 RRAC member Barbara Hoover created a presentation called “Every Road has a Story.” This video is enjoyable as well as educational, showing the importance and the beauty of Montgomery County’s rustic roads. Barbara created this on her own in order to promote the program. The video is posted on Montgomery County’s Rustic Roads web

page: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/>

In Early 2022, two RRAC members attended a virtual training course on Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads thru the Pennsylvania State University Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies.

Heritage Montgomery released a video on Montgomery County Rustic Roads featuring RRAC Member Bob Wilbur. The video can be seen at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjAWGz1GGoQ>

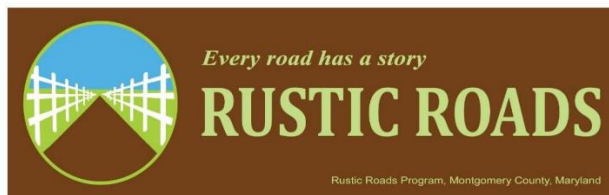


Committee members attended Montgomery Countryside Alliance’s “Ride for the Reserve” in September and staffed an information table.

Committee Member Kamran Sadeghi led the kids’ ride for the day.



The Committee developed promotional and educational materials including a tri-fold brochure, bumper stickers, and logo caps. The brochures are sometimes printed by MCDOT; the other items are designed, ordered and purchased by Committee members for resale at cost or gifting.



Committee business matters in 2022 included:

- 12120 Prices Distillery Road – Conditional Use – Chapingo LLC, CU 202207 – Applicant illegally installed an over-wide driveway, was dumping tree debris on the property, provided misleading information – RRAC voted to oppose --a hearing was held July 7 by Planning Board which voted to deny the CU.
- 11410 Game Preserve Road – Driveway Concept Plan reviewed
- 15350 Sugarland Road (rustic) Driveway – site visit and approval
- Master Plan Update received from Planning Department -- Planning seeking "courtesy reviews" from RRAC, MCDOT, OAG. Comments sought by June 30 for a final draft by July 28. Work Sessions commenced. Working Draft to be posted to Planning Department website. Committee chair was designated as member to present testimony at Planning Board on behalf of RRAC on November 17. Subcommittee to review priorities prior to testimony.
- Dynamic Speed Monitoring – Barnesville Road – at request of Town of Barnesville -- Committee approved
- County Executive decides that RRAC should review DPS driveway permit applications along rustic roads. Logistics to be worked out through DPS processes.
- RRAC nominates MCDOT for the Montgomery Preservation Award for the restoration of historic Montevideo Road Bridge (M-0030)
- 22900 Old Hundred Road – Cell Tower Balloon Test by Telecom Capital – Committee requested screening of view from the road and possible paint color choices
- Site Visit Updates – Purdum Road, Big Woods Road and Wasche Road – review and approve proposed repairs
- Tucker Lane concerns - Bob Chance, Resident, Patuxent Drive – site visit and follow up with MCDOT engineers
- Martinsburg Road Bridge (M-0042) over Potomac River Tributary --bridge in the queue for replacement. Committee requested information on what strength railing was the minimum required for this location with a speed limit of 30mph.
- Schaeffer Road Bridge (M-0137) over Little Seneca Creek -- consultant findings were that the bridge abutments are stone masonry covered in concrete, and their condition cannot be determined. Committee objected to consultant view of railing choice.
- Elton Farm Road – Committee members met for a hike with Park Ranger Erik Ledbetter to view the historic African American cultural site. Ledbetter advised RRAC that the original African American history project at this site will be delayed because it is being incorporated into a much larger project involving many other locations.
- Brown Logo Signs update -- The first in-house printed Logo Street Name Sign was put up at Old Bucklodge Lane. MCDOT cannot begin sign replacement until fall due to staffing shortages.
- Nash Country Estates, 3727 Gregg Road, Administrative Subdivision 620220040 – site visit and comments
- Zoom Meeting with MCDOT Director Conklin to review RRAC goals and successes working with the MCDOT divisions
- Batson Road, Administrative Subdivision 620220080 -- Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) follows a pattern of requesting an “operational area” as a pass-by/pull-off area adjacent fire hydrants. Committee recommended minimal impacts to Batson Road and if widening or “operational area” is necessary that it occur on nearby Brogden Road.

- Kings Valley Road – Future Master Planned Development – Committee supports maintaining rustic designation and not exceptional rustic per Planning Department recommendation.
- The County Code was being amended to make County Code consistent with the Complete Streets Design Guide approved by the County Council in February 2021. The Committee recommended changes to Ch. 49 including calling for maximum target speeds of 20-35 mph on rustic roads, replacing the word “accident” with the word “crash” for rustic road criteria, allowing flat speed humps on rustic roads, increasing Committee membership from 7 to 9 members, with additional members to be “representing the geographical, social, economic, recreational and cultural concerns of the residents of the County,” and removing the words “earning 50 percent or more of their income from farming” from the membership requirements for farmers.
- Game Preserve Road Proposed 90-bed Assisted Living Facility – initial review as requested by Applicant
- Request for lower speed limit on Peach Tree Road
- Request for Equestrian Crossing signs on Peach Tree, Slidell, and West Old Baltimore Roads
- Howard Property Admin. Subdivision 620230020 – Batchellors Forest Road -- updated plans for this house on 2 acres dated 12/05/2022 showing modified driveway access to be 20 feet wide with the larger apron, and located 250 feet (rule requires within 400 feet) from a fire hydrant. The road measures 20-22 feet wide at the hydrant, so there will be no additional road widening needed if this plan is acceptable to FRS. The Committee voted to support the plan.
- Sidewalk proposal for Batchellors Forest Road – Andrew Bossi, MCDOT – Committee voted to oppose as it would not connect to any other sidewalk and posed a burden for the property owner.
- Solar Concept Plan 520220360 – Gregg Road – representatives of this project asked that a portion of Gregg Road be designated rustic. Committee agreed to recommend rustic status.
- Committee sent correspondence to the County Executive asking for adequate and dedicated funding for tree trimming on roads used by large ag equipment, for regular inspection and clearing of culverts, and for equipment and personnel to undertake timely mowing on rustic roads.

2023

Committee business matters in 2023 included:

- Preliminary Plan 120230050, 10400 Boswell & 12900 Glen Mill Road
- Sandy Spring Museum Preliminary Plan Amendment 11996032B and Site Plan Amendment 81996010B for new exit driveway on Bentley Road
- Howard Property, Admin. Subdivision Plan 620230020, Batchellors Forest Road -- MCDOT formal request for sidewalk – Committee and resident oppose sidewalk
- CIP Budget Request – Crash-testing of Railings: Steel-backed Timber and Pierced Concrete
- Rein Community Solar Installation, 5011 Riggs Road, CU202305, power line burial adjacent to 21310 Zion Road
- Glen Road line of sight issues due to hillsides – Joel Albert, resident
- Margaret M. Rast Trust Property, Concept Plan 520230100, Big Woods Road. Committee reviewed proposal for 18 homes on 37 acres. Committee recommended limiting driveway access points onto rustic Big Woods Road, and to preserve roadside trees.
- Schaeffer Road Bridge M-0037) 30% TS&L Plan review

- Testimony before Hearing Examiner re: Chapingo CU -- Committee voted to approve written and in-person testimony to oppose the Chapingo CU before the Hearing Examiner in this remanded case.
- Glen Road Bridge (M-0148) over Sandy Branch – 60% Plans – Paul Tukey, Glenstone Museum
- 17215 Elmer School Road – Proposed Farm driveway on Rural Legacy Easement property. Referral from the Soil Conservation District. Committee approved driveway based upon location over 100 feet north of the streambed along tree line, to be constructed in accordance with SCD guidelines.
- Wasche Road patching and intersection with Whites Ferry Road – site visit report. MCDOT staff met with RRAC subcommittee. Request to be made to Jeff Knutsen to remove posts from road edge. Plans are to taper asphalt 18 inches down to eliminate steep edge.
- Master Plan Update – County Council hearing April 18 --Testimony in support from RRAC approved.
- 21801 Peach Tree Road – Proposed Driveway – Whispering Pines. LLC. Subcommittee met with contractor on site. The driveway will be built to Soil Conservation standards – approved.
- 14915 Mount Nebo Road driveway, Admin. Subdivision Application 620230130, approved
- Burnt Hill Road Bridge (M-0157) at Kingstead Road – TS&L 30% plans
- Master Plan Update – County Council process -- The Transportation & Environment Committee completed work on the Master Plan and related Bill 30-23 and the full Council is to take up both on July 25.
- Community Solar Project CU-202404 along Gregg Road near Zion Road -- Alder Energy Development, LLC – initial review
- Glen Road Bridge over Sandy Branch (M-0148) 90% TS&L plans reviewed
- 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.
- 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. RRAC approved based upon trees providing screening of views.
- Railing Choice for Shaeffer Road –to be based upon Boyd’s Civic Assoc input. The public hearing comment date was extended at the request of Boyd’s Civic to October 27.
- River Road – MCDOT Highway Services proposal for asbestos encapsulation of 780 ft length of road -- Members oppose MCDOTs recommendation of the tar & chip process for encapsulating the asbestos. Members conducted a site visit and shared photos with MCDOT of what was observed - approximately 18-inch-deep entrenchment along the road where it is possible to add the 12 inches of Driving Surface Aggregate as suggested by Penn State gravel roads experts. Committee requested Penn State-approved DSA.
- River Road asbestos encapsulation follow up – report from 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. Road was repaired with conventional products and is now stable.
- Request for review of Turkey Foot Road driveway -- 12721 Split Creek Court secondary access (ROW Permit # 475156)
- Proposed Tasting Room – Live Oak Farm – Peach Tree Road, Clarksburg – preliminary review
- Bucklodge Road, Application No. 11989032A – Light industrial use, approved

Committee business matters in 2024 included:

- Lots 5-7 – Thompson Corner Estates (22851, 22841 and 22801 Slidell Road) -- ROW Permit# 397947. RRAC supports plan with 14-foot-wide driveway apron.
- MCDOT – Davis Mill Road at Wildcat Road -- RRAC supports plan for interim enhancements (eyebrow) in Spring 2024
- 24724 Peach Tree Road –CAS Engineering -- Administrative Plan 620240080. Proposed subdivided lot into one lot of undetermined acreage with perpetual ingress/egress easement. Driveway will remain the same, Committee approved.
- Prices Distillery Road – Frederick County – Petition to close road near the Montgomery/Frederick County is opposed by Montgomery County residents. RRAC voted to request the Montgomery County Executive’s Office permission to write to Frederick County officials expressing opposition.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND COMPOSITION

Meetings

From mid-2016 to 2024 the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee held meetings on the following dates:

July 26, 2016	October 24, 2019	January 27, 2022
October 25, 2016	December 5, 2019	February 24, 2022
November 29, 2016		March 24, 2022
	January 23, 2020	April 27, 2022
January 24, 2017	February 27, 2020	May 26, 2022
February 28, 2017	April 23, 2020	July 7, 2022
March 28, 2017	May 14, 2020	August 25, 2022
April 25, 2017	May 28, 2020	September 19, 2022 - Special Meeting to consider comments to County Council on County Code changes related to the Complete Streets Design Guide – agenda and special meeting minutes
May 23, 2017	June 25, 2020	September 29, 2022
June 27, 2017	July 23, 2020	October 27, 2022
July 25, 2017	August 27, 2020	December 1, 2022
August 29, 2017	September 24, 2020	
September 26, 2017	October 22, 2020	February 2, 2023
October 24, 2017	December 3, 2020	March 2, 2023
November 28, 2017		March 23, 2023
	January 28, 2021	April 27, 2023
January 23, 2018	February 25, 2021	June 8, 2023
February 27, 2018	March 4, 2021 - Special Meeting on Master Plan	June 22, 2023
March 27, 2018	March 25, 2021	July 20, 2023
April 24, 2018	April 9, 2021 - Special Meeting to review Zion Road Bridge TS&L Plans	August 24, 2023
May 22, 2018	May 27, 2021	September 28, 2023
June 19, 2018	June 3, 2021 - Special Meeting due to lack of quorum at May meeting	October 26, 2023
August 28, 2018	June 24, 2021	December 7, 2023
October 23, 2018	July 22, 2021	
November 27, 2018	September 21, 2021 - Special Meeting to vote on nominated roads	February 22, 2024
	April 22, 2021	April 25, 2024
January 22, 2019	September 23, 2021	May 23, 2024
February 26, 2019	October 28, 2021	
March 28, 2019	December 2, 2021	
April 25, 2019		
May 30, 2019		
June 27, 2019		
August 29, 2019		
September 26, 2019		

Members

The members of the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee for the years 2016 to 2024:

NAME	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Audrey Patton	X								
Christopher Marston, Chair (thru July 2017)	X	X	/						
Jane Thompson	X	X	X						
Tom Hartsock	X	X	/						
Sarah Navid, Vice-Chair (Aug 2017 - Sept 2019)	X	X	X	X					
Todd Greenstone	X	X	X	X	/				
Robert Tworkowski, Chair (Aug 2017 - Jan 2021)	X	X	X	X	X	/			
Leslie Saville (non-voting)	X	X	X	X	X	/			
Laura Van Etten, Chair (Jan 2021 - Nov 2023)		/	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dan Seamans			/	X	X	X	X	X	
Lonnie Luther					/	/			
Anne Davies					/	X	X	X	
Robert W. Wilbur					X	X	/		
Barbara Hoover						/	X	X	X
Kamran Sadeghi						X	X	X	X
Charles Mess						/	X	X	
Elena Shuvalov							/	X	X
Jamey Pratt (non-voting)							/	X	X
Tom Linthicum, Temporary Chair (May 2024 to present)									X
Sandra Heiler									X
Mason Hopkins									X
Richard Thoms									X
Bill Willard									X
X = Whole Year / = Partial Year									

The Staff Coordinators of the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee for the years 2016 to 2022 were:

Mike Knapp, DPS – 2016 to 2017

Atiq Panjshiri, DPS – 2018 to 2019

Darcy Buckley, MCDOT – 2021 to 2022

Christina Contreras, MCDOT – 2023

Chris Van Alstyne, MCDOT – 2024 to present

IV. STATUS OF THE RUSTIC ROADS PROGRAM

Committee members drove most of the roads currently in the program, as well as the roads proposed for inclusion in the updated Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan, sending written traveling experience reports and photos to the team at the Planning Department working on the update.

RRAC subcommittee members worked with the Planning Board at 3 sessions to clarify and refine the draft RRFMP proposed by Planning staff. The final plan as approved by the County Council includes 15 new roads added to the program, while 3 roads were removed as unsuitable for the program. There are now 114 roads in the Rustic Roads program (River Road has two non-contiguous segments and is therefore counted as two roads).

The Committee's membership was expanded during Planning Board and County Council sessions from 7 to 9 voting members. Current member categories are:

- (1) three members who operate commercial farmland earning 50 percent or more of their income from direct involvement in commodity farming;
- (2) one member who is a representative of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and has been recommended to the Executive by the AAC;
- (3) one member who knows rural preservation techniques through practical experience and training;
- (4) one member who knows roadway engineering through practical experience and training;
- (5) three at-large members who do not satisfy the requirements of subsections (a)(1) through (a)(4) above, to be drawn from frequent users of rustic roads.

As under prior law, the Chairman of the Planning Board must designate a member of the planning staff as a non-voting Committee member.

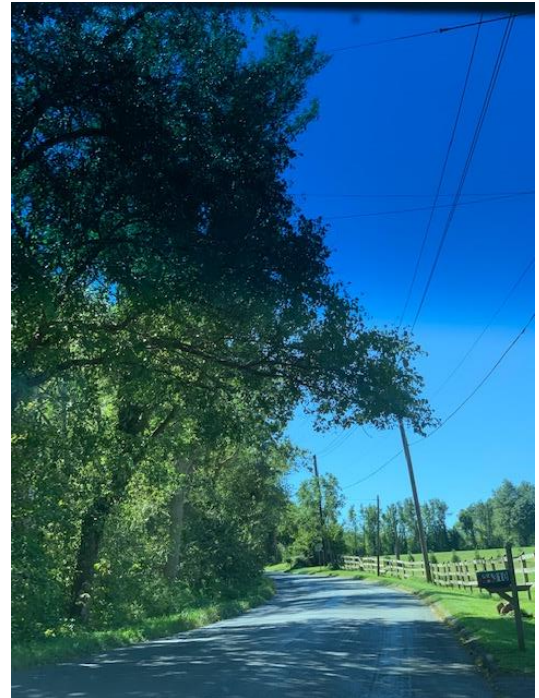
In 2019, County Executive Marc Elrich asked MCDOT to provide temporary staff support to the Committee. In early 2024, this Staff Coordinator role became part of a permanent position in the MCDOT Director's office. The Committee greatly appreciates the consistent support of the County Executive throughout the many challenges facing the program over the last several years.

The Department of Permitting Services has worked with the Committee to ensure that when issuing permits for driveway access on rustic roads, the driveways are approved for no wider than 10 feet with 5-foot-wide aprons for single residence properties.



Over the course of the years 2018 – 2023, RRAC worked successfully with MCDOT Field Operations personnel to address roadway issues such as standing water in a way that protected the road shoulders from erosion and provided the necessary slope to send water to the nearest culvert. The use of open-cell heavy duty Geo Cell units on road edges permitted grass to grow and provided stabilization. These were first used successfully on Sugarland Road.

The Committee requested from the Office of Agriculture a list of roads used frequently for the movement of farm equipment. Members drove several of these rustic roads to identify tree limbs that might obstruct farm equipment. Specific locations were noted, and detailed information was provided to MCDOT which resulted in appropriate tree trimming on multiple rustic roads, including Rocky, Sugarland, Peach Tree, Wasche, Zion, and more.



The Committee has worked actively with key MCDOT divisions and sections over the past four years, which has resulted in top-down MCDOT support for the Rustic Roads Program and greater respect for the unique maintenance requirements these roads have. Roadside site visits were made frequently to review proposed patching and paving, and the work on these unique roads by MCDOT personnel has been good for both the roads and the overall program. The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the MCDOT staff who have embraced this program and these special roads.

Committee Members:

Tom Linthicum, Chair
Kamran Sadeghi, Barbara Hoover, Elena Shuvalov,
Sandra Heiler, Mason Hopkins Jr., Richard Thoms,
Billy Willard, Jamey Pratt (non-voting)

Montgomery
Countryside
Alliance 

ROYCE HANSON AWARD

• 2018 WINNER •



MONTGOMERY PRIZE

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