

## RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

7:00-9:00 PM



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### Meeting Notes - Virtual Meeting September 26, 2024

*Revised 10/17/2024*

#### **Attendees:**

#### **Members:**

Sandy Heiler  
Mason Hopkins  
Barbara Hoover  
Tom Linthicum  
Jamey Pratt, non-voting  
Elena Shuvalov  
Richard Thoms

#### **Guests:**

Jane Thompson, Member Emeritus  
Laura Van Etten, Member Emeritus  
Brian Copley, MCDOT  
Jake Didinsky, Committee Evaluation Review Board  
Florence Dwyer, Montgomery County Planning Department  
J. Persing  
John Stuart

**MCDOT Staff Coordinator:** Chris Van Alstyne

**MCDOT Executive Administrative Aide:** Tawanda Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### **Action Items**

#### **Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2024, Meeting**

Committee members approved minutes with edits.

#### **Discussion Items**

#### **Bridge debris maintenance practices**

Inspections take place every two years. Committee voted to recommend more frequent inspection and cleaning of bridges and culverts.

#### **22101 Peach Tree Road, Boyds (driveway permit)**

Committee voted to recommend approval of the standard 10-foot driveway with 5 foot aprons so long as the applicant is in compliance with all County laws and regulations.

#### **Update: Mohammed Residence 620240210 – Game Preserve Road**

Sight distance study results in the removing of additional trees. If there are substantial changes to plans must return to the Committee. Chris Van Alstyne to ask for more information on tree removal.

**Road Speeds Discussion – Peach Tree Road**

Speed limits on Peach Tree Road currently vary. Committee voted to recommend the speed limit be dropped to 30 MPH which is the “target speed” in Montgomery County Code for Rustic Roads. Elena Shuvalov to write recommendation to MCDOT.

**Committee Evaluation and Review Board Questionnaire for advisory boards (Volunteers needed)**

Chris Van Alstyne asked for volunteers to draft memos that are to be sent to MCDOT to avoid a conflict of interest. Barbara Hoover volunteered to draft answers and circulate to committee members for additional input.

**Confirm date of next meeting**

Next meeting at 7:00 pm on October 24, 2024

**Planning Department Updates:**

**Butler Property – 620240150**

At Davis Mill and Wildcat Roads. Want to create separate lot apart from farm property.

**Hipsley Mill Road – Cavanaugh Property**

Committee has no objections at this time based on the location of the access to the property.

**Bryants Nursery Road – Church Property**

Pre-application meeting was held.

**MCDOT Updates**

**Farmer Vacancy Updates**

Posted online with one new candidate, posting to close on October 30.

**Sugarland Road and Montevideo Road**

Committee voted to object to application of any striping on an exceptional rustic road and requested additional information about the accident history that may indicate the need for safety signs. Barbara Hoover volunteered to draft request to MCDOT.

**Sign Survey on Rustic Roads**

Chris Van Alstyne to send sign observation/verification maps to committee.

**Other Discussion:**

**Ride for the Reserve Recap**

Laura Van Etten gave a recap of this year’s Ride for the Reserve. She reported that there were lots of positive comments and that many people stopped by their booth. Laura asked Chris if they could get more flyers and new placards. Chris will look into it and report back to the Committee.

**Relationship with Heritage Montgomery**

Sandy Heiler suggested the Committee develop a closer relationship with Sarah Rogers, Executive Director of Heritage Montgomery. Sandy mentioned they have a lot of great resources that could be helpful in promoting the program. The Committee discussed various awards that might be appropriate for rustic roads, including identifying a project to nominate MCDOT for. Laura and Sandy will discuss more offline.

**Temporary Signs on Roads**

Richard Thoms asked if the Committee should address temporary signs, such as political and real estate signs, especially with the upcoming election. Laura expressed interest in getting more information from DPS about what the rules are regarding these signs. Richard will gather more information to present at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.