

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

7:00-9:00 PM



Meeting Notes - Virtual Meeting May 22, 2025

Attendees:

Members:

Mason Hopkins
Barbara Hoover
Aren Johnson
Tom Linthicum
Richard Thoms
Jamey Pratt, non-voting

Guests:

Soo-Lee Cho, Davis Hill Development, LLC
Tory Hanna, Davis Hill Development, LLC
Bernie Mihm
John Stuart
Michael Thomas, CV, Inc.
Will Thurman, Davis Hill Development, LLC
Laura Van Etten, Member Emeritus
George Walker

MCDOT Staff Coordinator: Chris Van Alstyne

MCDOT Executive Administrative Aide: Tawanda Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Action Items

Approval of Agenda

Committee members approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2025, Meeting

Committee members approved the minutes with corrections.

Discussion Items

Mountain Vale Solar Project (17700 Barnesville Road) – Davis Hill Development, LLC

Post-meeting note: due to the recusal of Tom Linthicum from the discussion, the Committee failed to meet quorum. While two motions were made for a formal opinion, these were made in error. The lack of quorum would have nullified any motions; however, as no errant motion was successful, the ultimate outcome is unchanged – no formal opinion is issued by the Committee. The applicant presented the project plans to the committee regarding the proposed solar array on Barnesville Road. Discussion occurred over if the ornamental fencing could be removed and vegetation added to buffer the view of the solar panels. RRAC members expressed disappointment in losing the viewshed from Barnesville

Road. A motion to approve the project with the direction to remove the decorative fencing and to stagger the tree buffer in a more natural way, with large evergreen trees, and to be located behind the county easement, failed. A motion to disapprove the application as presented by the committee also failed. The Committee does not present a formal opinion.

Big Woods Manor (20925 Big Woods Road)

The Applicant presented project plans for a private residence along Big Woods Road. The new home does not directly front the road. The new driveway will utilize an existing neighbor's driveway and therefore will not change the character or viewshed along Big Woods Road. RRAC passed a motion to approve the project as presented.

Rustic Road Tree Inspection – John Stuart

John discussed an inventory of tree inspections on rural and rustic roads, with special concern outlined for tree health along Whites Ferry Road and Williard Road. Dutch Elm disease is spread widely and has taken a heavy toll on local trees. The standard timeframe for tree care response is 15-18 months from date of request due to current backlogs and staffing constraints.

Proposal for letter to DPS for outreach effort to educate on advertisement sign regulations in ROW – Richard Thoms

RRAC passed a motion to send a request to DPS, Montgomery County Sign Committee, local developers, and local political parties to provide education about what signs can be posted in the ROW. Richard Thoms will draft letter for committee review.

Planning Updates

Kings Valley and Kingstead Roads – there is a proposal for a new WSSC Pumping Station; formal plans are forthcoming.

MCDOT Updates

Issued letter concerning Glen Road to Mark Terry in DOT regarding next steps of sight distance and safety study. Sent letter to DPS on Stoney Creek Drive and response was to keep talking with applicant. New and replacement Rustic Roads signs will begin to be installed over the summer. Committee asks for paving updates from DOT to get away from so many emergency repairs.

Future Agenda Items

- Discussion of maintenance practices, particularly the resurfacing of gravel roads and roads with concrete center with asphalt millings on the side, as well as strategies to avoid the need for emergency repairs. Examples include Sugarland, Hughes, Wasche, Martinsburg Roads.
- Discussion of MCDOT culvert maintenance to address flooding for example, Kings Valley Road.

Confirm date of next meeting

June 26 is the next meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.