

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

7:00-9:00 PM



Meeting Notes - Virtual Meeting August 28, 2025

Attendees:

Members:

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

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 of June 26, 2025, Meeting

Committee members approved the minutes.

Discussion Items

Live Edge Vineyards – 25201 Peach Tree Road, Public ROW Permit# 412288

Dave McKee of Benning & Associates presented plans for a ROW access permit for Live Edge Vineyards. The plan uses the existing driveway leading to the public winery and tasting room off Peach Tree Road. There was discussion over the potential for a right turn only exit on to Peach Tree Rd. There is no plan to widen the roadway or remove trees. The plan has already been approved by Fire & Rescue, with minimal upgrades, and the Department of Permitting Services. The committee approved the driveway application as presented.

Discussion of Elton Farm Road

Daniel King from Highway Services discussed pavement options to repair damage to Elton Farm Rd. Option 1 is to use an asphalt base topped by two layers of tar and chip to keep the road's rustic aesthetics. The committee approved option 1 for the maintenance of the road.

Discussion of RR maintenance practices

The committee asked Daniel King questions about routine maintenance issues on rustic roads and culverts. Maintenance staff tend to review known problem areas and certain culverts after large storm events. It was recommended that the committee call MC311 to report issues such as flooding and trees. Mr. King referred the committee to the MCDOT website (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-highway/>) to learn about the scheduled road maintenance. Certain questions asked were about guardrails and traffic calming devices; those should be referred to the Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations.

Planning Updates

Currently no updates.

MCDOT Updates & Status of Action Items

- Establish a nominating committee for the vacant roadway engineer position. Postpone the discussion to the next meeting in September.
- RRAC committee terms are staggered so that the entire committee will never be vacant all at once. Members in good standing who are reapplying can continue their active status until they are reappointed by the County Executive.
- New rustic road signage continues to be installed around the county.

Further Discussion

Sandy Heiler will give a talk on Montgomery County and the War of 1812 on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00 PM in the Spring Room of the Silver Spring Civic Building.

Confirm the date of the next meeting

September 25 is the next meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.