

RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Thursday of the month

7:00-9:00 PM



Meeting Notes - Virtual Meeting October 23, 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

David DeMarco, Olney Golf Club Redevelopment
Maribel Donahue, VIKA, Olney Golf Club Redevelopment
Florence Dwyer, Montgomery Planning
Michael Goodman, VIKA, Olney Golf Club Redevelopment
Robert Harris, Olney Golf Club Redevelopment
Kyle Hughes, White Ground Road
Bernie Mihm, Guest
Chris Nourse, Olney Golf Club Redevelopment
John Stuart, Guest
Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive
Laura Van Etten, Member Emeritus

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Action Items

Approval of Agenda

The committee members approved the updated agenda, which includes the White Ground Road driveway access permit.

Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2025, Meeting

Committee members approved the minutes as amended.

Approval of Meeting Notes of September 25, 2025, Meeting

Committee members approved the notes as amended.

White Ground Road Access Permit

Kyle Hughes presented updated plans for relocating the driveway. Additionally, the driveway was modified to a 35-foot apron in accordance with the DPS Fire and Rescue Service's guidance. A sight distance analysis was submitted with the right-of-way application to the Department of Permitting Services. The committee approves the driveway realignment as presented.

Olney Golf Club Redevelopment on Emory Church Road

Robert Harris, Land Use Attorney, presented plans to build 230 townhome units at Emory Church Road and Georgia Avenue. Michael Goodman, VIKA, presented plans for the proposed entrances into the housing community. He also shared that they met with the Planning Department who advised them to preserve the forest to the rear of the community. He mentions that part of Emory Church Road does not match the character of a rustic road near its intersection with Georgia Avenue. The committee believes that there needs to be more protection for the mature trees, as they are a key feature of the rustic road. The RRAC recommends returning to the committee later with updates to their plans for tree preservation.

Discussion Items

Montgomery County Agritourism Signage Program

Chris Van Alstyne shared the program guidelines with the committee and the intended locations for the signs. The new signage would be located on Wildcat, Sugarland, Mount Ephraim, and Brookeville Roads. The committee discussed pausing the installation of the signs until RRAC receives more information, but the motion fails to pass.

Discussion of the meeting on Hughes Road

The meeting was well attended by both the county and the Town of Poolesville. Budget constraints were discussed concerning road repair. The Town of Poolesville offered to assist where the budget falls short. Some complaints were raised that Upcounty does not receive enough representation in the work being done, whether it's for trees, roads, etc. Jamey presented the Rustic Road document, which included traffic counts that portray road usage. Some members believe that the county's rustic and rural roads are not lightly traveled, but rather serve as main thoroughfares, given the area's development. Dale Tibbits suggested calling 311 to help raise awareness of publicly facing issues.

Vegetation clearing on West Hunter Road power lines

The committee agrees to draft a letter to Richard Dorsey, Chief of the Division of Highway Services, expressing their displeasure with the utility company for not following procedures outlined in the Master Plan and county regulations for the excessive pruning and clearing of West Hunter Road. The letter requests that Mr. Dorsey contact and work with the utility company to request remediation of the area.

Status of nominating committee and member appointments

Applications have been received for the roadway engineer position, as well as for the commodity farmer and at-large position. The committee created a nominating sub-committee consisting of Billy Willard, Barbara Hoover, Aren Johnson, and Mason Hopkins.

Planning Updates

Currently, no updates.

MCDOT Updates & Status of Action Items

Currently, no updates.

Confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting date is December 11.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.