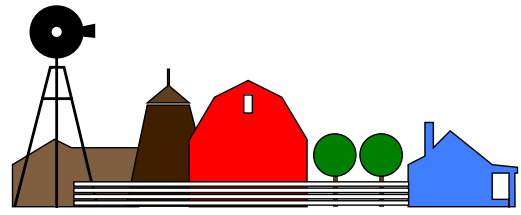


## **RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

6:30-8:30 PM Executive Office Building, Rockville

Lobby Level conference room



### **Draft Minutes**

**Meeting of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

#### **Attendees:**

**DPS Staff coordinator:** Brian Jeeves

**M-NCPPC member:** Leslie Saville

#### **Voting Members present:**

Christopher Marston

Angela Butler

Greg Deaver

Marc Miller

Jane Thompson

#### **Absent:**

#### **Voting Members**

Greg Glenn

Eric Spates

#### **Guests:**

Ryan Sigworth, M-NCPPC

Audrey Patton

Todd Greenstone

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

#### **Minutes**

The May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes were approved with no corrections.

#### **Member Replacement**

Brian informed the committee that two prospective candidates had applied for the positions being vacated by Eric Spates and Greg Glenn (Farmer/Ag Advisory Rep and Farmer Rep, respectively). Both farmers were eligible and the nominating committee was going to make a decision later this evening about sending the names confidentially to the executive.

## **Rustic Roads Resource Manual**

Leslie informed the members that the Resource Manual is nearing its completion with regards to the first comments, but has been delayed by the loss of the rustic roads intern and some comments from former committee member Sarah Navid being omitted from the Manual (a lengthy discussion ensued). Greg Deaver asked Leslie to circulate the comments from Sarah to the members so we could review them and see if they should be incorporated or not. The goal is to have the Manual finished and re-circulated for a final round of comments in September thus having enough time to address any comments and get the document ready for publication in early 2015.

## **Biennial Report**

Leslie informed the members that the Biennial Report is nearing its completion but has also been delayed by the loss of the intern. The report needs maps, pictures and a cover; once these items are complete the document will be sent to print. The goal is to have the report finished and circulated before the end of the year.

## **Gravel Roads**

Leslie updated the members on the survey of Poplar Hill Road, a gravel road that had been unmaintained by the County until this year. A lengthy discussion ensued about visiting Poffenburger Road in Frederick County which had been a test case for a gravel stabilizer. It was considered whether a letter should be written requesting the presence of the DOT Engineer. A visit could be scheduled with the committee members and engineer to visit the road to talk about stabilization, drainage and possible treatments to the gravel roads in the county. It was presented to the members that on previous occasions we have taken the stance that DOT controls the specifications and the RRAC is a committee that is advisory in nature so we cannot tell DOT how to do their job.

It was suggested that we write a letter to DOT requesting that they give us a briefing on the gravel roads in the county and the plans for their maintenance. Poplar Hill Road residents would like to come to the committee along with DOT and have an open meeting to discuss the road and the work to be carried out there. Brian will contact DOT and see when someone would be available (it was thought the November meeting would give adequate time).

## **Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan**

Leslie distributed copies of the descriptions for Bentley Road and Meetinghouse Road being included in the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan; she had previously asked for comment on the rustic and exceptional rustic designations. DOT would like a section of Bentley road to be non rustic to allow for safety improvements. Members noted that the rustic designation allows for needed safety improvements, so it was decided that the whole road should have a rustic designation as requested by the residents. Brian will draft a letter to Planning Board Chairman Casey Anderson with DOT being CC'ed.

**Presentations:** - None

## **Public Awareness – MoCo Farm Bureau's Farm to Table Dinner**

Angela and Christopher informed the committee that the Montgomery County Farm to Table Dinner was taking place on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We have again been offered space for an information booth (last year, Angela and Greg Glenn introduced us to this event). Christopher will take the posters prepared for the Annual Farm Tour, and answer questions about the program. Marc offered to help and to talk to people.

## **Correspondence –**

Brian to draft a letter on Club Hollow Road

Brian to draft a letter for nominating Committee regarding the applicants for the open positions

Brian to draft a letter on Sugarland Farm Subdivision

Brian to draft a letter on Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan

## **New Business –**

### **Sugarland Lane**

Mr. Ryan Sigworth of M-NCPPC lead reviewer for the Sugarland Farm Subdivision came to the committee asking for our recommendation on a proposed subdivision on Sugarland Lane. After reviewing the plans the members asked that a letter be written with the preferred option. Brian will draft the letter.

### **MCFRS upgrade to all Rustic Roads**

It has been brought to the attention of the committee that the Fire Marshal would like to widen all rustic roads to twenty feet wide to meet their current standard. It was decided that the committee would review each case as it came up as no formal approach to the committee has been made about this.

### **Cell Panels on Utility poles**

Leslie informed the Committee that she is receiving questions about cell tower panels on utility poles (a lengthy explanation followed). The question was raised by the members if bigger panels mean less towers and Leslie said she would ask about this. Brian was to talk with zoning and ask at DPS what approvals and permits would be needed for the utility company to put these up.

### **Club Hollow Road**

Brian brought it to the attention of the committee that there is a proposed widening of Club Hollow Road, a rustic road, for a pull-off for a future cistern. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Engineer, Surveyor, Fire Marshal and Park and Planning requesting that the easement for the cistern required by the Fire Marshal be moved so it is adjacent to the driveway. This would allow for access that would not require the widening of the road. Brian will draft a letter.

### **Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015.**

Brian suggested that these nominations should be tabled for the next meeting as two of the committee members were either not eligible to serve or no longer going to be on the committee and the prospective new members may want to run for one of the positions.

### **Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next Public RRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October the 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 in Rockville.

### **MINUTES APPROVED:**