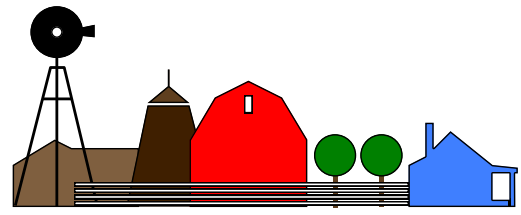


RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Tuesday of the month

7-9 PM Executive Office Building, Rockville

15th floor conference room



MINUTES

Meeting of May 21, 2013

Members present:

Angela Butler
Marc Miller
Christopher Marston
Bob Goldberg
Eric Spates

M-NCPPC member: Leslie Saville

Members Absent: Greg Deaver; Greg Glenn

Staff coordinator: Jay Beatty

Guests:

Bob Tworowski, Batchellors Forest Rd resident
John and Ann Wylie, “ “ “
Meg Pease-Fye, “ “ “
Steve Fye, “ “ “

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

In Greg Deaver's absence Eric acted as Chair.

Minutes

The April 23, 2013 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Correspondence

Jay presented the draft MCA letter and it was approved w/ minor changes.

Member Replacement

There has been a qualified application rec'd for bob's position. Jay will obtain their application and set up a time w/ Marc and Christopher for an interview. Greg D's reapplication is moving forward.

Rustic Roads Guidelines

Comments can still be provided. The committee had a discussion about the organization of the photos....captions and indexing, etc. The photos should mention where it was taken and what does it show. Marc and Christopher agreed to work further on this project.

Bob mentioned the idea that maybe we should have the photos as part of an appendix at the back and simply reference them in the text. Some thought it would be nice to have the photos interspersed.

Public Awareness

Angela has been collating and investigating what we might be able to do to promote public awareness on the rustic roads and gave an update. She went thru Greg Glenn's email of ideas. Ideas about various events ("a poker run" a road rally, tours, etc) were discussed. Also the idea of denoting our roads on "Caroline Taylor's map" was thought to be a good one.

Batchellors Forest Road Residents (BFRR)

The guests listed above (some a repeat from last month) attended the meeting. (NOTE: For the sake of these minutes we'll ID them "BFRR".) The BFRR is concerned about the overall development trend in their neighborhood and the retention and/or enhancement of status of B. F. Road as a rustic rd. This especially relates to the proposed Trotters Glen development. A long discussion ensued and many of the concerns and ideas that were discussed were same as those covered in the April 23, 2013 minutes.

The BFRR asked about what makes up a rustic road. The committee pointed out various items in the County Code and the various master plans. The BFR asked about the master plans and who implements them. Leslie explained how the master plan process works and how any amendments to them have been difficult in recent years due lack of funding by the Council.

The BFRR is concerned about the traffic impacts and maintaining the status of the road. The residents believe there should be a connection from the Trotters Glen development onto Emory Church Road. They feel that since drivers cannot turn left onto Georgia Avenue at BF Rd, they will cut through the Olney Manor Rec Park. Members again pointed out that the committee is advisory only, cannot override safety improvements and that they are not traffic planning engineers.

The BFRR believe the connection will attract fewer trips, and that the new residents of Trotters Glen will be likely to use Emory Church Road, so the impact to the rustic road will in fact be reduced if a new road connects Batchellors Forest and Emory Church Roads through the Trotters Glen subdivision. It was mentioned to the BFRR that that Emory Church Road reps had approached the committee about possible designation as rustic.

Residents are also concerned about the proposed widening of the road over the one-lane bridge. The BFRR says they have along list of petition signatures from fellow residents up and down the road that support their position.

The residents have hired a traffic consultant who doesn't agree with the applicant's engineer. The residents requested support from the committee is asking MNCPPC to delay the project to enable them to finish their traffic study. The committee said they would not ask for a delay.

They would however express their concerns to MNCPPC and cc the BFRR. The BFRR thanked the committee and excused themselves.

Caucus on the BFRR

The committee said the letter to MNCPPC should generally include the following points:

The issue has come up repeatedly and is complex;

The committee doesn't have the technical capacity to assess competing engineering studies;

We trust that the required traffic studies have been done in accordance with the best professional standards and will be carefully and thoughtfully reviewed and analyzed;

On the cut-through or connection through to Emory Church Road, the committee will take no positionour concern is that the BF road retains its rustic character and function.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 6:30 pm. (Note -- this meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, July 2, 2013 due to a power outage at the EOB.)

Angela mentioned that she would not be able to make the 25th if the weather is decent.

MINUTES APPROVED: 7/2/13