

Rustic Roads

Rustic Roads Advisory Committee briefing to the Montgomery
County Council Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure,
Energy and Environment

October 19, 2015

Rustic Roads Advisory Committee

Seven citizen members:

- 3 farmers (one serves as liaison to the AAC)
- 2 civic association representatives
- 1 with engineering knowledge
- 1 with historic preservation knowledge
- A non-voting member appointed by the Planning Board
- Staff coordinator provided by DPS

Rustic roads

A *rustic road* is a road within the Agricultural Reserve or adjoining rural areas in Montgomery County which enhances the rural character of the area due to its particular configuration, alignment, scenic quality, landscaping, adjacent views, and historic interest, and which exemplifies the rural and agricultural landscape of the county.



Purdum Road, Clarksburg; rustic

Exceptional rustic roads

An *exceptional rustic road* is a road having such unusual and pleasing character as it exists today that preservation of the road in its current state is highly desirable. The road has special characteristics which contribute significantly to the rural, scenic, or historic features of Montgomery County and might lose these specific characteristics if improved or widened.



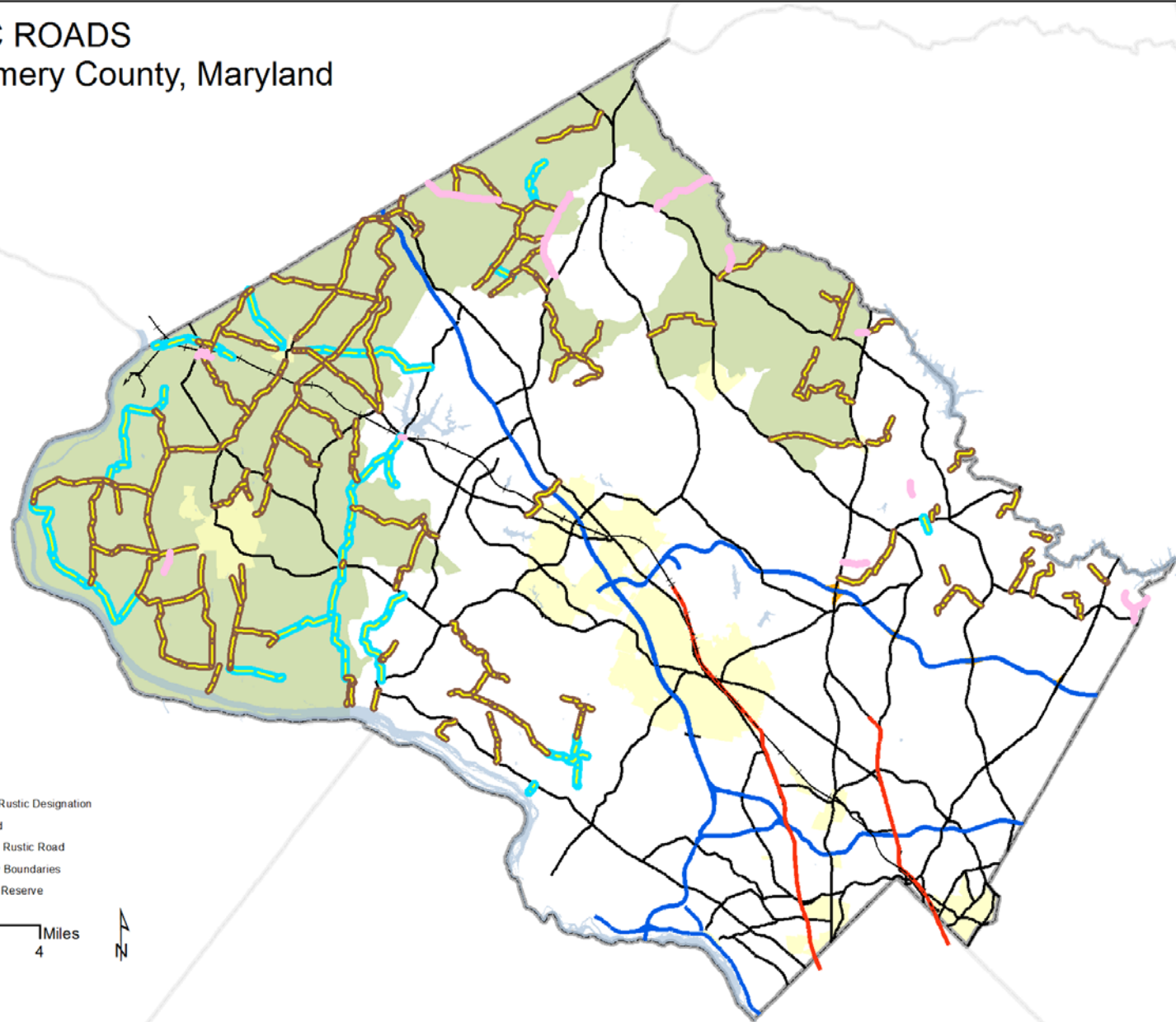
West Harris Road, Barnesville; exceptional rustic

RUSTIC ROADS

Montgomery County, Maryland

- Review for Rustic Designation
- Rustic Road
- Exceptional Rustic Road
- Municipality Boundaries
- Agricultural Reserve

0 1 2 4 Miles



Rustic roads

As of March 2015, when the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan was adopted, we have 98 roads in the program, 12 of which are classified as exceptional rustic roads, and six with sections that are both rustic and exceptional rustic.

In the Eastern County, the rustic roads like Meeting House Road and Bentley Road, remind us of the Quaker heritage, local industry and farming. These roads are still 'wild' unlike our other roads which are boring, crowded, necessary.

Robin Ziek



Meeting House Road, Sandy Spring; exceptional rustic

Other programs



- Maryland Scenic Byways (1988)
- National Scenic Byways (1991)
- Howard County's Scenic Roads program (2000)
- Frederick County's Rural Roads program (2002)
- Loudoun County's Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District (2002)

Whites Ferry Road is part of the Antietam Campaign, one of the two Maryland Scenic Byways in Montgomery County

Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville; rustic.

Incremental changes

The RRAC reviews proposed changes that are brought before it, but a large number of changes are not brought to us. Some changes are small, some are larger. Multiple actors are involved.



CSX addition to top of the 1906 B&O underpass, Game Preserve Road, Gaithersburg; rustic

Widening, curbing



1996: 18 feet wide
2015: 20-22 feet wide with intermittent curbing

Beallsville Road, MD 109, Barnesville; rustic

Filling adjacent to road



Budd Road, Poolesville; rustic

Widening



1996: 18 feet wide
2015: 20-22 feet wide

River Road, Poolesville; rustic

Widening



1996: 10 feet wide
2015: 13-22 feet wide

Significant features



Before - Gregg Road, Brookeville; rustic

After utility work



Gregg Road, Brookeville; rustic

Utility work



Mt Nebo Road, Poolesville; rustic

New drainage



Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville; rustic

Changing materials



1996: 14 feet paved, 1-4 foot gravel shoulders
2015: 19-21 feet paved

Hughes Road, Poolesville; rustic

Changing materials



Sugarland Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Promoting the Program

Whether you live in the Reserve or come to enjoy its diverse offerings, the ambiance created by the marriage of majestic tree canopies and rustic winding roads, stirs the soul and serves as reminder that we are stewards of our environment.

Ellie Trueman



Old Bucklodge Lane, Boyds; rustic

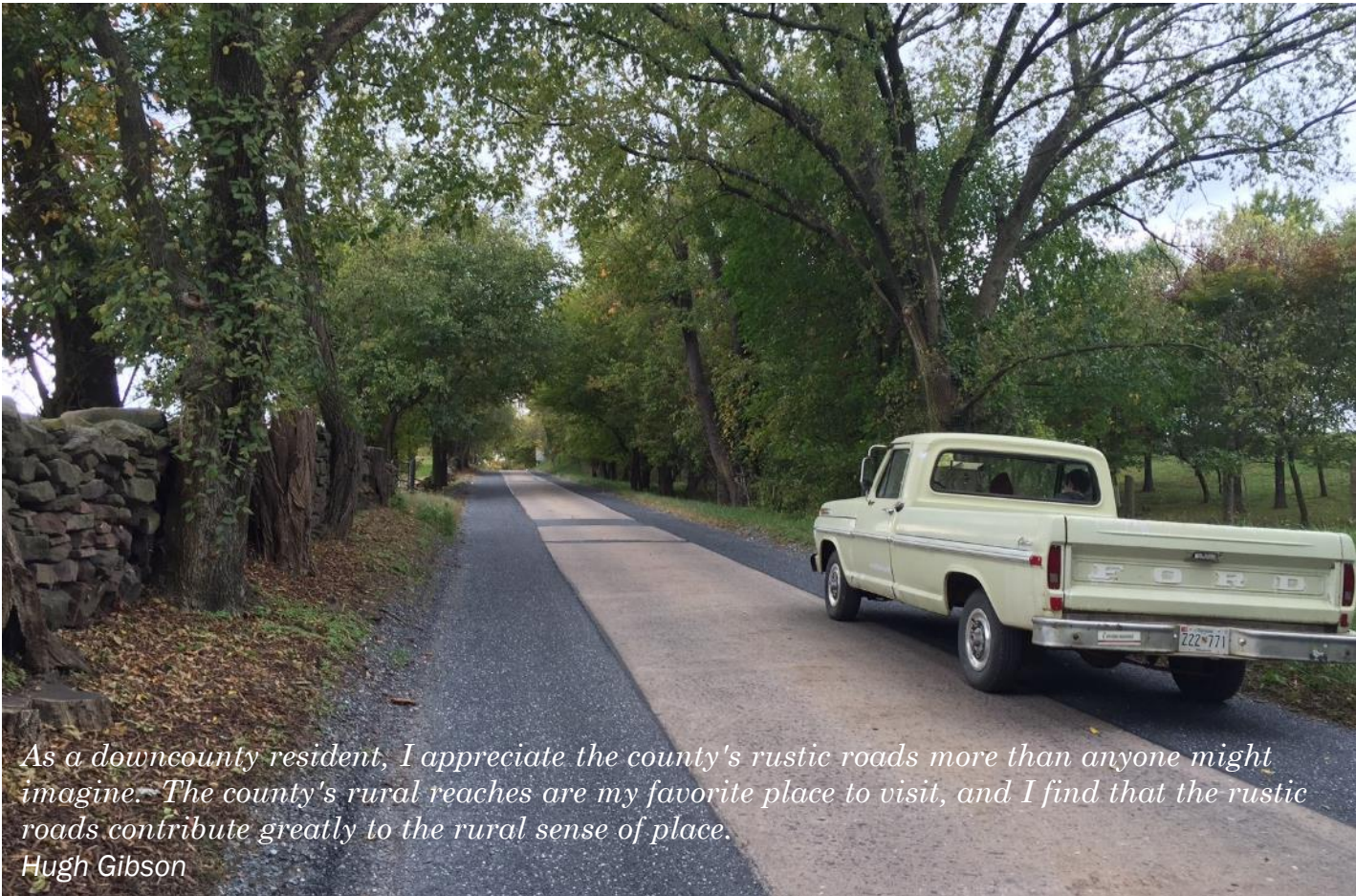
Adopt A Rustic Road

Driving on a Rural Rustic Road means immediate peace to me. Walking or birding on Harris Road, Martinsburg Road or Peach Tree Road is natural therapy. Since there are so many more bikers on all these roads, the news of these wonderlands must be spreading. I am very grateful to Park and Planning and the County Council for protecting these priceless treasures for all the stakeholders.

Ann Sturm



Possibly a classic car rally?



As a downcounty resident, I appreciate the county's rustic roads more than anyone might imagine. The county's rural reaches are my favorite place to visit, and I find that the rustic roads contribute greatly to the rural sense of place.

Hugh Gibson

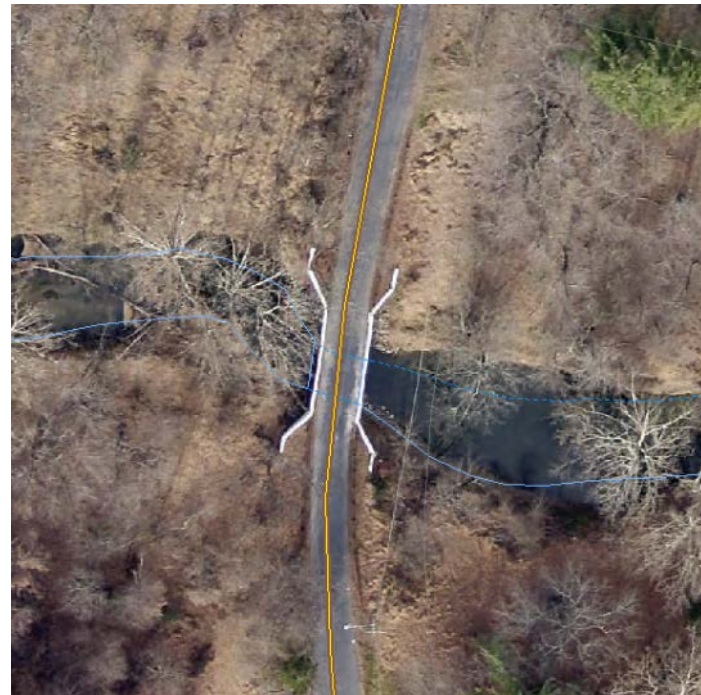
Improve Coordination with DOT



Emergency repair to the 1910 Montevideo Road bridge, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Inconsistent referrals

Between 2011 and 2013, work was done on this bridge over the Hawlings River. Forest was removed and long wing walls were added. These changes effect the character of the road.



Haviland Mill Road, Brookeville; rustic

Training



West Harris Road, Barnesville; exceptional rustic

Training

“A rustic or exceptional rustic road **will receive the level of maintenance as necessary to assure its continued viability as a transportation facility...**”

Executive Regulation 21-96, Rustic Roads



Hunting Quarter Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Training



Hunting Quarter Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Training



Hunting Quarter Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Compatible solutions



White Ground Road, Boyds; exceptional rustic

Misperceptions



Kudos: Replacement bridge



Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson; exceptional rustic

Kudos: Clean up



Hunting Quarter Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Improve Coordination with FRS



To add one house at the end of Sugarland Lane, the existing gravel driveway will be widened to 20 feet and paved.

Sugarland Lane, Poolesville, rustic

Subdivision requirement



Batchellors Forest Road, Olney; rustic

Replace one lane bridge



Batchellors Forest Road, Olney; rustic

Limited sight distance



Batchellors Forest Road, Olney; rustic

Pull off requirement



Club Hollow Road, Poolesville; rustic

Farmer Eligibility Issues

Amend language to specify 50 percent or more of active income from farming allows a farmer to qualify for the RRAC

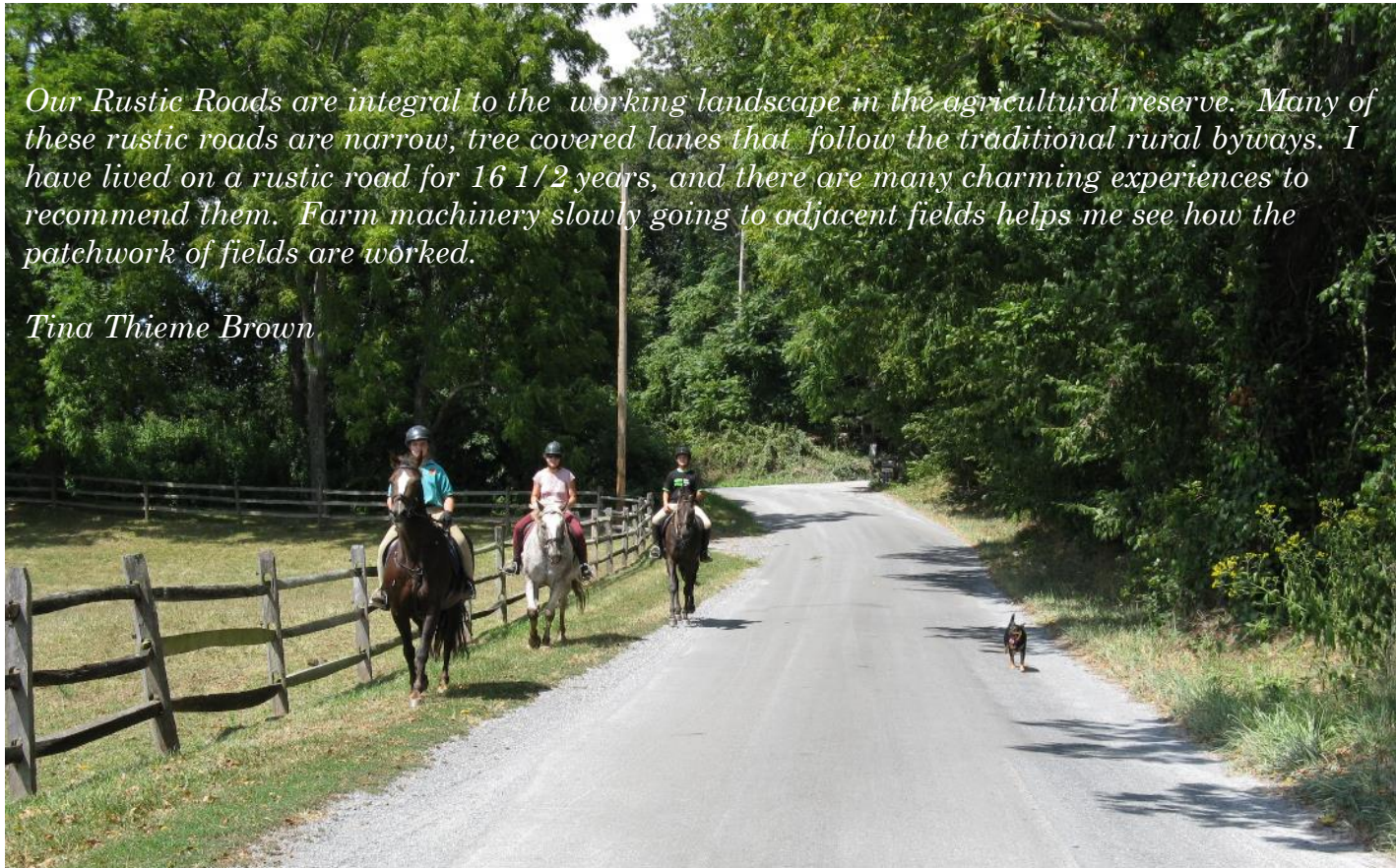


Berryville Road, Darnestown; exceptional rustic

Users: Equestrians

Our Rustic Roads are integral to the working landscape in the agricultural reserve. Many of these rustic roads are narrow, tree covered lanes that follow the traditional rural byways. I have lived on a rustic road for 16 1/2 years, and there are many charming experiences to recommend them. Farm machinery slowly going to adjacent fields helps me see how the patchwork of fields are worked.

Tina Thieme Brown



Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson; exceptional rustic

Users: Pick your own



Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve is a treasure. The best way to experience it is slowly and intentionally. Rustic roads help the visitor to slow their pace and truly experience all the Reserve has to offer...

- Janis Glenn

View from Sugarland Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Users: Farmers

Rustic roads are a window into our past, and as such, they help tie our modern day Ag Reserve to the long agrarian history of the area.

Ellen Gordon



Old Hundred Road, MD 109, Barnesville; rustic

Users: Trucks

Having lived between two rustic roads my whole life, one thing remains certain: Safety is not a prevailing concern as long as drivers are educated and aware of what they'll find around the corners.

*Josh Goldman
Reserve Resident*



Users: Birders



There are simple required courtesies extended daily on our rustic byways - whether giving way to the combine, slowing for the hiker or cyclist or coming to full stop for the ambling box turtle.

Caroline Taylor

Christmas Day Bird Count, Hughes Road, Poolesville; rustic

Users: RRAC members and friends



The nature of the roads defines how we drive them. And what a drive they are!
Caroline Taylor

West Harris Road, Barnesville, exceptional rustic

Users: Photographers



Users: Bicyclists

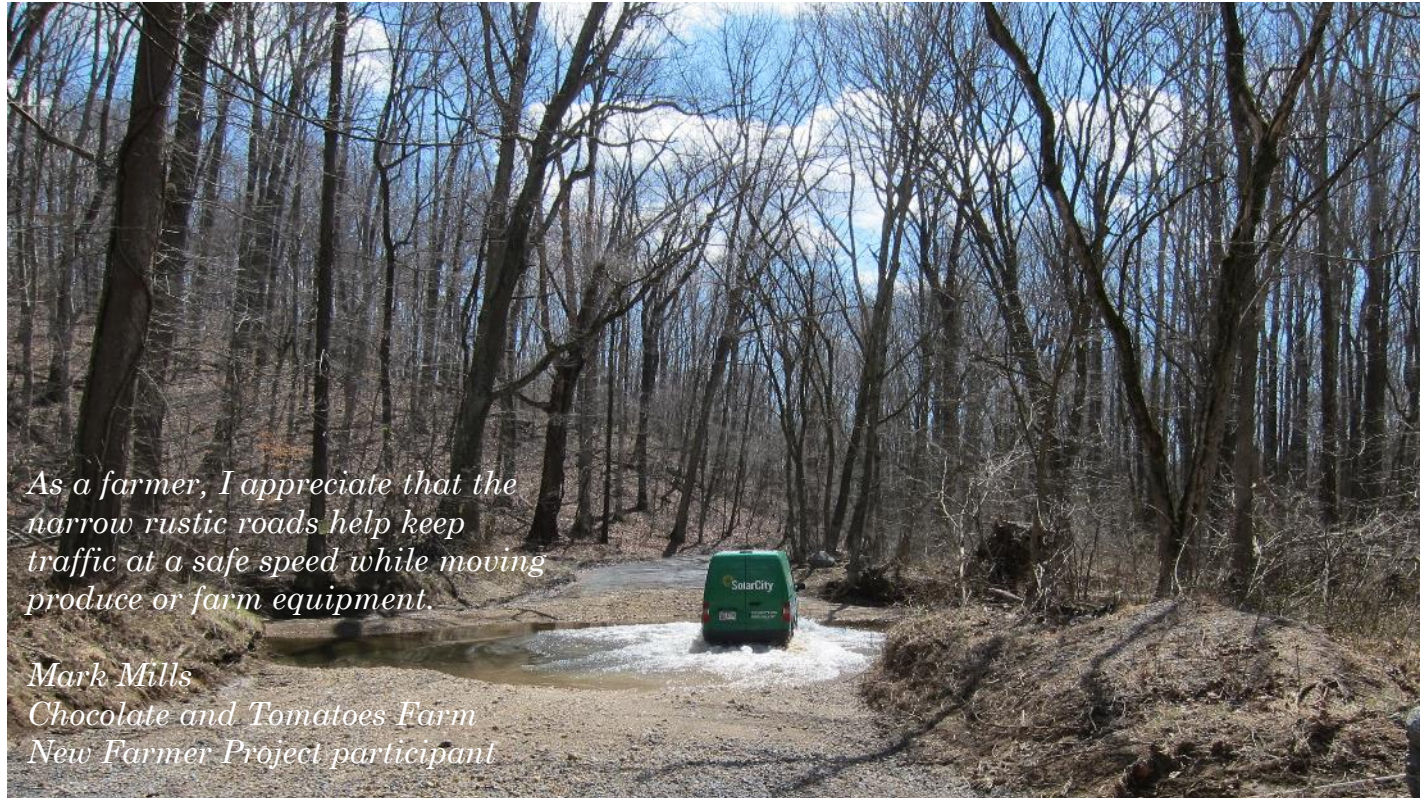
I will always be grateful that I live on the edge of the Ag. Reserve and can dawdle down a country lane that I know looked just the same a hundred years ago.

Kathie Hulley



River Road, Poolesville; exceptional rustic

Users: Workers

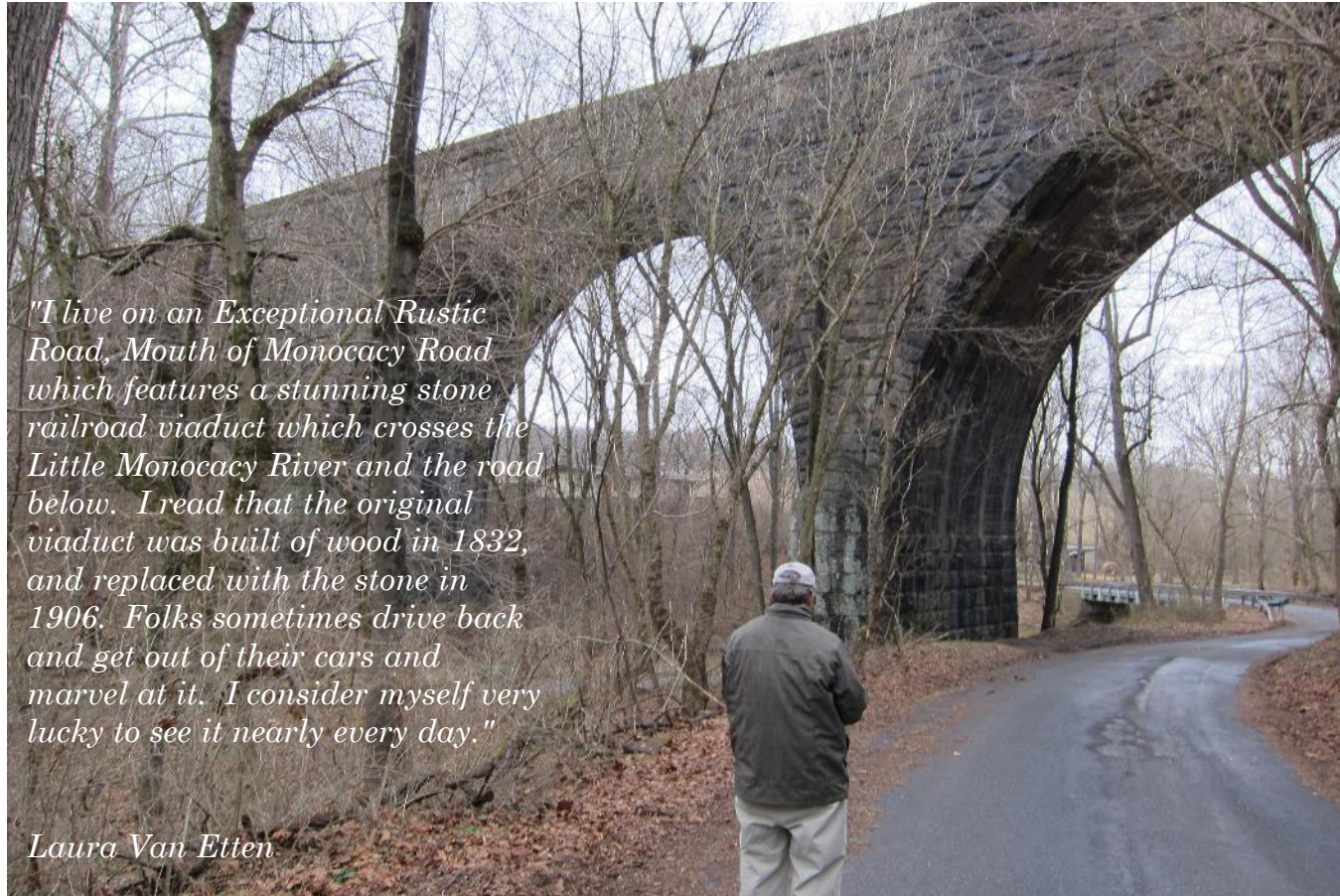


As a farmer, I appreciate that the narrow rustic roads help keep traffic at a safe speed while moving produce or farm equipment.

*Mark Mills
Chocolate and Tomatoes Farm
New Farmer Project participant*

Ford, West Old Baltimore Road, Clarksburg; exceptional rustic

Users: Enthusiasts



"I live on an Exceptional Rustic Road, Mouth of Monocacy Road which features a stunning stone railroad viaduct which crosses the Little Monocacy River and the road below. I read that the original viaduct was built of wood in 1832, and replaced with the stone in 1906. Folks sometimes drive back and get out of their cars and marvel at it. I consider myself very lucky to see it nearly every day."

Laura Van Etten

Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson; exceptional rustic

Users: Bicyclists and walkers



Our Rustic Roads take us back in time and back to Nature. Mine does this not only for me but also for the myriad bicyclists and runners who come by my house. I love sharing it with these city and suburb dwellers.
Anne Davies

Peach Tree Road, Barnesville; rustic

Users: Poets, writers and artists

Country Roads

*Stop along the way,
See, pebbles in the stream.
Listen
to the quiet.
And then,
the invasion of the geese.*

*Slow, go.
Wind your way.
Lose your way.*

*Fields, farms, forests.
Sun, sky, blue, green.*

Green.

Anne Cinque



Users: Equestrians

When we trailer my horse T Bone along the rural roads near our home, I feel much more at ease than when we have to be on the faster, wider roads.

Megan Wilson, Poolesville High School Student - Reserve Resident

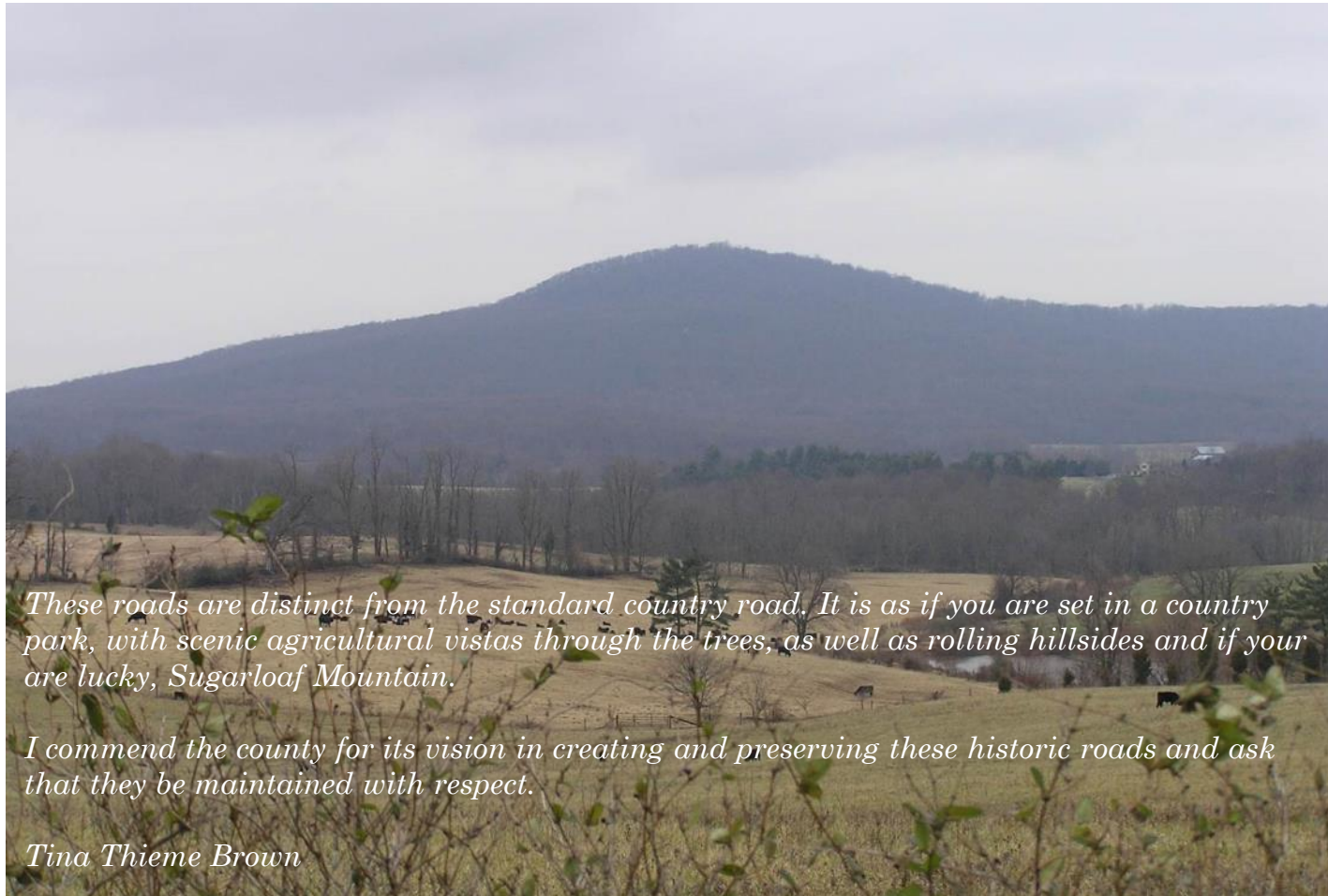
The rustic roads are the only safe place for careful horseback riding, and of course, it is beautiful.

Anne Davies



West Harris Road, Barnesville; exceptional rustic

Users: Sugarloaf hikers



These roads are distinct from the standard country road. It is as if you are set in a country park, with scenic agricultural vistas through the trees, as well as rolling hillsides and if your are lucky, Sugarloaf Mountain.

I commend the county for its vision in creating and preserving these historic roads and ask that they be maintained with respect.

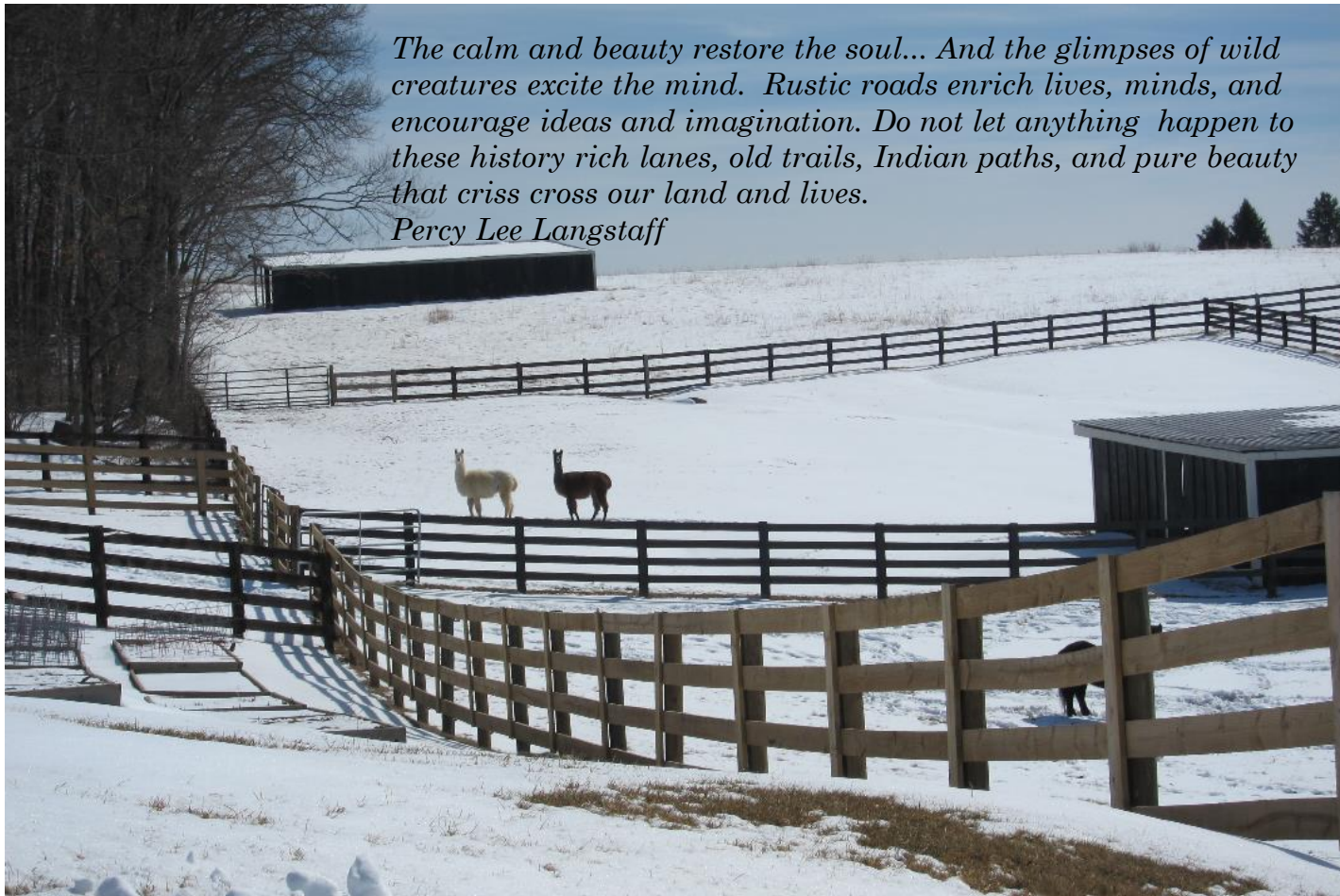
Tina Thieme Brown

Sugarloaf Mountain seen from Old Hundred Road, Dickerson; rustic

Users: Watchers beside the roads

The calm and beauty restore the soul... And the glimpses of wild creatures excite the mind. Rustic roads enrich lives, minds, and encourage ideas and imagination. Do not let anything happen to these history rich lanes, old trails, Indian paths, and pure beauty that criss cross our land and lives.

Percy Lee Langstaff



Moxley Road, Damascus; rustic

Upcoming - MPOHT

- Consider 13 new nominees
- Describe the significant features and histories of 28 roads currently in the Rustic Roads Program
- Consider whether the rustic classification is applicable to roads in historic districts such as Brookville Road, Lawkins Lane, and Capitol View Avenue



Mt. Carmel Cemetery Road, Brookville; nominee under consideration

Thank you

Our rustic roads make me feel free. I can breathe deeply and know that I am home.

Tenley Wurglitz

Everything I love is down a rustic road.

Tom Leedy



DOT maintenance staff times mowing to allow daylilies to bloom along West Harris Road