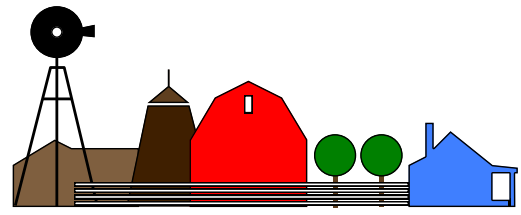


RUSTIC ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Tuesday of the month

6:00-8:00 PM Executive Office Building, Rockville

DGS Large conference room 9th Floor



Draft Minutes

Meeting of October 27th, 2015

Attendees:

DPS Staff coordinator: Chris Myers

M-NCPPC member: Leslie Saville

Voting Members present:

Christopher Marston

Jane Thompson

Thomas Hartsock

Robert Tworkowski

Voting Members absent:

Greg Deaver

Todd Greenstone

Audrey Patton

Guests:

Charles Grimsley – Engineer for 16700 Budd Road property owners

Joseph and Julie Kuhlman – Property owners of 16700 Budd Road

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

Presentations –

16700 Budd Road

Charles Grimsley of Landmark Engineering made a presentation on behalf of the Kuhlman family regarding the development of their property at 16700 Budd Road. The Kuhlman family own a 15 acre parcel of land that is located on Budd Road, a rustic road, within the town limits of Poolesville. The lot is primarily wooded. They are proposing to build their house on the lot as well as relocate their landscaping business onto the lot. They are installing two separate driveway entrances, one for access to their home and one for access to their business. The driveways are proposed to be 20' wide. The main impacts to the road will be the trees that need to be removed to install the driveways and provide a clear line of sight when exiting the driveways onto Budd Road. 16 trees are currently proposed for removal, most of them being Eastern Red Cedars 15" in diameter or less. The owners have been working with the town of Poolesville and have an approved Special Exception, Forest Conservation Plan and Site Plan through the town.

They are currently working with the county on their permits for the Right of Way, Sediment Control and Building.

The 20' driveway width for their home was of concern to the committee and they asked why it had to be that wide. Joseph Kuhlman stated that it needed to be that wide because he is building a modular home and the trailers are long enough to require that wide of a turning radius. Thomas Hartsock asked if it would be possible to use their business entrance to get the trailers in to build the home but Joseph said there was a low spot between his home site and their business as well as some trees that he would like to leave in place so he didn't think that was a viable option.

After the presenters left, the committee discussed the issues at hand. Jane Thompson volunteered to try and swing by to take some pictures of the area to see what it would look like with the trees being removed. Chris Myers is reviewing their tree protection plan associated with their Right of Way permit application and will get back to the committee with what is approved. A letter of recommendations will then be written and presented to the Kuhlman's. This would likely include the recommendation of narrowing the permanent driveway after the house has been built since the need to accommodate the large trailers would no longer be necessary.

The topic of whether the committee had jurisdiction within the town limits of Poolesville were brought up by the applicants. The town is saying the committee does not. The committee thought that because the Kuhlman's had to get a ROW permit from the county that the committee did have jurisdiction. They agreed to look into it. **(Update 11/16/15 – Chris spoke with his Division Chief and it was decided that the committee did not have jurisdiction within the Town of Poolesville based on the 1996 Master Plan showing Budd Road as being Rustic between the county line and Hughes Road).**

New Business –

Signage along Rustic Roads

Jane Thompson asked to discuss signage requirements along rustic roads because the number of road signs in Barnesville is large and growing. The committee ran out of time at the last meeting to discuss the topic so it was brought up again at this month's meeting. Jane said the number of signs in Barnesville has gotten out of control. The signs vary from directing drivers to 270 to bridge restriction notices. She said these notifications are in the wrong location because by the time drivers see the signs, it's too late and there is nowhere to turn around. Others committee members have noticed the increase in numbers of signs including Robert Tworowski who mentioned that No Parking signs were installed along Batchellors Forest Road every 100' on both sides of the road for a section of the road and was very unsightly.

The committee wants to know who regulates the installment of signs and if there is anything that can be done about it. The Town of Barnesville is trying to lower the speed limit to 25 through the town which would allow the text on the signs to be reduced in size thus allowing the signs to be smaller. Once the speed limit is lowered, the committee agreed to look into what the requirements are for the signs and what could be done to reduce the number of signs.

Next Year's Schedule

The committee reviewed the schedule for the first six months of 2016 so the conference room could be booked. The following dates were decided – 1/26, 2/23, 3/22, 4/26, 5/31 and 6/28.

Letter of support for The Friends of Haviland Mill Road in Howard County

The committee received a request from The Friends of Haviland Mill Road to write a letter of support to get Howard County's portion of Haviland Mill Road designated as a Scenic Road (a County program with similar features and requirements as the Rustic Roads Program). The committee agreed that it was a good idea so a letter will be drafted to be reviewed by the committee before being sent off.

Old Business –

Minutes

The minutes from the September 22nd meeting were approved.

Status of the program report with the County Council T&E Committee

The committee discussed the meeting they had with the T&E Committee and how they wanted to proceed with the main topics that were discussed. The funding for the brown street sign replacement was discussed by Tom. He thinks a grant can be written to cover the cost of the signs. The grant would be awarded by a joint effort of the Maryland Farm Bureau and The Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Examples of the proposed signs need to be reviewed by the committee so a design can be chosen and a cost estimate generated before the grant can be awarded.

Amending the regulations was then discussed in regards to several topics. The qualifications for the farmer position needs to be changed. Ideas were passed around whether to have a minimum annual income from farming or if it should be a lower percentage of their total income than what it currently is (50%). The committee decided to think about it before making a decision. The idea of adding two non-voting member's, one as a DOT rep and one as a DPS rep, was presented and the committee liked the idea.

The need for DOT training on how to maintain gravel roads was brought up and how to best handle that. Penn State's training program is an option that was mentioned at the T&E Committee meeting, but Tom didn't think DOT would be very receptive of the training. They decided to have Randy Paugh, the acting Division Chief for Highway Maintenance, out to see some of the problems the committee is encountering along rustic roads.

Trying to better coordinate with Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) was also discussed at the T&E Committee meeting. FRS mentioned the need to allow access for large ladder trucks along the rustic roads which sometimes requires widening of the road in order to allow a property to be developed. The committee wants to see what kind of equipment inventory some of the rural fire stations have to see what kind of equipment will be traveling down some of the rustic roads and if that equipment really does require the widening of the roads.

Glenstone

Chris mentioned that a right of way permit application is in the process of being reviewed by DPS for the staff entrance to the Glenstone foundation property. They will be modifying an existing residential driveway. Two trees will be removed from the ROW due to the impacts from the driveway modification. Several other trees were flagged but are not a part of this permit application. The Foundation is contemplating burying the overhead utility lines. If they decide to proceed with doing that, another permit would need to be issued and the trees would be reviewed at that time.

Correspondence –

16700 Budd Road property development – Chris to draft a letter
Letter of support for The Friends of Haviland Mill Road in Howard County – Chris to draft a letter

Public Awareness – None

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next Public RRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 in Rockville.

MINUTES APPROVED: