

Rural & Scenic Roads Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022 (Virtual)

APPROVED

1. Susan Hanson brought the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Members Present: Susan Hanson, Darius Mark, Dave Ziedelis, Howard Looney, Peter Pearre, Ron Burns, Sam Castleman

Members Absent: Tiffany Ahalt, Jeff Yocum, Jim Bonneville, Barbara Wyatt

Staff Present: Amanda Whitmore, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Martha Berkheimer (Intern for Amanda Whitmore), Dave Olney, Mary Dolan

2. The Committee members reviewed the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting. Sam Castleman MOVED that the Committee APPROVE the February 23, 2022 minutes with two corrections (correction of Darius Mark's name and Tim Ziegler instead of Tom). Peter Pearre SECONDED the motion. The minutes were approved as presented (7-0).
3. Mr. Castleman presented the subcommittee report for Criteria and Nominations:
 - Mr. Ziedelis found the report very helpful.
 - Mr. Burns commented on keeping the criteria flexible. Generally, we want to be as broad as possible at the ordinance level.
 - Ms. Hanson questioned how some of these roads impact environmental resources, like streams and resource areas in the county.
 - Mr. Mark noted that when he was doing research for the subcommittee he reviewed best practices in other counties and states. Pennsylvania is a state where environmental sensitivity/protection is almost the sole criteria. Environmental features are one of the most important factors for getting into their programs.
 - Mr. Olney commented on the selection process, specifically that it needs to include input from adjacent property owners. He asked if that should be considered among the criteria for eligibility.
4. Mr. Burns presented the subcommittee report for Program Policy Guidelines:
 - The subcommittee is looking at processes; there is some overlap with Mr. Castleman's subcommittee.
 - The subcommittee will also be considering treatment of the road surface, ditches, shoulders, vegetation, guardrails, and widening.
 - The first subcommittee meeting was held last week. The next meeting is April 21st.
 - The subcommittee will be looking at other counties' guidelines and policies, as well as VDOT's work.

- They are considering ordinance vs. resolution vs. policy, and will discuss procedural vs. policy changes.
 - They would like to get fact sheets for rural roads that exist today – one page with a map, highlights, zoning, property owners’ names, etc.
 - The subcommittee would like to get ASHTO’s guidelines for low volume roads.
 - Ms. Hanson noted that Montgomery County has only removed one road from their program in 30 years, and that removal is was connected to a master plan update. They have also added almost 140 roads.
5. Mr. Ziedelis presented the subcommittee report for Education, Promotion, & Tourism:
 - They have looked at several plans across the country, as well as the State of Maryland. An outline was emailed out earlier today.
 - Number one is Visitor Experience, Interpretation, and Content. The other subcommittees’ comments will be used to develop content for the Visitor Experience.
 - Number two is Marketing and Promotion – will recommend development of printed materials and/or a brochure.
 - Number three is public participation. Community forums are essential in this.
 - Number four is preservation.
 - Is use of these roads by bicyclists and pedestrians welcome and encouraged?
 - Mr. Looney asked how the public participation and community forums would be handled. Would it be an annual occurrence?
 - Mr. Ziedelis thought that it would be an annual occurrence.
 - Mr. Olney remarked on the stories of the roads
 - Mr. Pearre noted that Carroll County has a very good oral history program that is done through their public access TV channel. These interviews are available online.
 6. Mr. Castleman spoke about the report to the County Executive, which is due by September. He and Ms. Ahalt would like to see the committee complete the report sooner so there is time for implementation during the County Executive’s term.
 7. Ms. Brandt said that Ms. Wyatt is reaching out to a representative of the Kane County, Illinois Rustic Roads Program about presenting to the group at the April meeting.
 8. The next meeting will be virtual on Wednesday, April 27th at 4:30 pm.
 9. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.