

Rural & Scenic Roads Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2022

APPROVED

1. Tiffany Ahalt brought the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Members Present: Tiffany Ahalt, Susan Hanson, Darius Mark, Dave Ziedelis, Howard Looney, Peter Pearre, Sam Castleman, Ron Burns, Jeff Yocum, Barbara Wyatt, Jim Bonneville

Staff Present: Amanda Whitmore, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Beau Lockard, Dave Olney, Mary Dolan

2. The Committee members reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting. Dave Ziedelis MOVED that the Committee APPROVE the April 27, 2022 minutes as written. Sam Castleman SECONDED the motion. The minutes were approved as presented (11-0).
3. Mr. Ziedelis presented the Education, Promotion, and Tourism subcommittee report. It was noted that all reports are drafts and will be revised. During the discussion, it was agreed that several items need to be reworked.
 - Part I – Overview and Tourism Potential. Profile of different users. Roads create revenue via the uses that benefit local businesses and residents.
 - Part II – In order to meet visitor expectations, the Rural & Scenic Roads Program must provide a clean, safe, and easy to navigate environment.
 - Part III – Education and promotion of rural and scenic roads. Emphasis on beauty, rustic qualities, and the safety of the environment.
 - Part IV – Program Content. Create an inventory of parks, creeks, rivers, and places of historic interest. A list is included in the document that can be expanded to include additional sites/features. Also discussion of the restaurants, breweries, wineries, and distilleries that the roads connect, including routes to trails and local loops. Frederick County has a connected network of striped local roads for road bicycling consisting of various terrains.
 - Part V – Marketing and Promotion. A website could be developed for visitors that could be accessed via mobile phones.
 - Part VI – Public Participation and Community Forums. Make the public aware of rural roads, create education programs, and partner with organizations interested in these roads. A tag line was suggested, “Frederick County uses what they have.”
4. Mr. Castleman presented the subcommittee report for Criteria and Nomination:
 - The first focus is to protect roads. The subcommittee pared down the roads in the county to about 350 miles of roads.
 - Any candidate roads for the program would be afforded some level of protection. (Maintenance). The road would stay as it is.
 - The County is the caretaker of approximately 1300 miles of roads, but only about 100 miles are actually owned by the County.

- It was suggested that gravel roads be grandfathered into the new program. There was also discussion of whether the road makes a connection to another road in the program (network) or with park facilities, which provide amenities like restrooms.
5. Mr. Mark presented the subcommittee report for Program Policy, Process, and Guidelines:
 - The main focus is on an ordinance that would codify the program and firmly establish rustic road preservation as County policy.
 - Regulations – He reviewed several provisions: boom mowing, character-defining features, designation, engineering assessment, maintenance, etc.
 - Maintenance was discussed. It was noted that drainage ditches have been being cleaned out down to the dirt. There should be vegetation in the ditches to prevent run-off and sediment in waterways. It was agreed that maintenance needs to be further addressed.
 - Another item of concern was cul-de-sacs associated with new subdivisions. There was concern about a provision waiving road improvements to rural roads unintentionally encouraging subdivision. Staff will schedule a follow-up discussion with Mike Wilkins, Director of Development Review, to discuss.
 - Removing roads from the program was discussed.
 6. The committee agreed upon a June 8 deadline for revisions to the subcommittee reports. Staff will distribute to revised report to the committee for review in advance of the next meeting.
 7. The next committee meeting will be on June 15th at 4:30 PM in the Winchester Room.
 8. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.