

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—February 2011

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

Forestry and Beautification has been working on a plan to address the erosion problem we are experiencing on the Center Street side of McCathran Hall. The plantings in this area have been moved and additional drainage system installed next to the Hall to prevent deterioration of the wood siding. Now we would like to add some rocks on the Center Street side and fill in some additional soil. This will help rejuvenate the existing plantings and improve the area for new perennials and bulbs we plan to put in on Arbor Day (April 9). I will bring a sketch and some photos of what is planned for the Council to take a look at.

Our town forester, Dan Landry, has agreed to come in once the trees have leafed out. He, Steve and I will survey the town so he can guide us on what and where trimming needs to be done, both in general and near power lines (Pepco will do this).

Maria Montefusco and I will meet with Jeff Driscoll about the reforestation along lower Ridge Road on March 11.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on February 2.

There were no building permits.

We continue to discuss the block survey requirement. Brenda Gumula researched boundary survey definitions with Snider and Associates, but there does not appear to be an across-the-board standard terminology.

The Commission agreed to continue the boundary surveys at a rate of two per year (or possibly more). Commissioner duties will shift now that Eric is Chair. Samantha Beres will now check the permits and Brenda Gumula and Georgette Cole will do the fence checks. The Commission discussed considering fines if a fence or other structures are found to have been located in a place other than what the approved permit states.

PC/HPC: The Planning Commission voted to send ZTA 2011-01: DRAFT ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3 AND 4 to the Town Council. The PC and HPC are working on testimony to accompany the draft ordinance regarding the need for further action which will be presented at the public hearing.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

During the month of February attention was given to the snow removal, using the Town tractor and truck to keep the roadways clear. This involved scraping the streets of ice and slush, spreading by hand salt and sand on the worst areas and giving special attention to the areas traveled by the school bus and its stops. By clearing the roads before the temperature dropped, many of the areas which would have been iced over were, in fact, clear. The tractor was fitted with chains and the plow welded where it had cracked.

The bamboo around the Town Garage was cut down and carried to the transfer station. This had become so overgrown that access to the garage was impossible because of the snow weighing down the bamboo.

The Town has acquired a second Trac Vac for use in picking up leaves. This was a used machine which was given to the Town at no cost. It has now been refurbished and repaired and is ready for the spring/fall cleaning. By having two machines and using the two riding mowers, the leaves can be far more efficiently recycled.

Work was completed on the playground equipment – the teeter totter boards were resurfaced and painted, the swing seats repainted and repaired. A safety check of the playground revealed several sections of rotting timbers and exposed nails. These will have to be replaced before the area can be safely used.

There were several meetings with Town councilors and committees: Woods Committee, Maintenance Committee, Forestry, Recreation and Playground, McCathran Hall and Lake. An inspection was made of the East Woods, West Woods and park drainage issues, the identity fencing, dead trees in the walkways and landscaping needs at McCathran Hall. Administrative paperwork was completed daily and meeting with the Town treasurer to review budget status of various categories was held.

The drainage ditches in East Woods were cleared of debris and work was finished on the drainage problem at Acorn and Chestnut Road. Dug out drainage ditch in the West Woods and identified a solution for a more effective drainage of the areas along the trails in both East Woods and West Woods.

Regular inspections of safety equipment at the Town Hall was completed.

Following the storm, clean up from the damage to the trees and bushes along Town roads and walkways was begun with the rubbish moved to the roadway for pick up.

As has been the case for the last several months, much of the work was accomplished because of the assistance of five volunteers: Bruce Rothrock, Bill Robertson, Charlie Challstrom, Terry Cox and Don Henninger. Without their help, it would not have been possible to complete so much of the winter's work.

McCATHRAN HALL—Joe Clark

During the month of February the insulation under the floor was completed, wire mesh screen was installed over the entire insulated area and the project was picked up and mechanical room cleaned.

The furnace room entrance and sump pump problems were corrected. The concrete wall which had cracked as well floor pad had to be repaired and replaced, the pump reinstalled and the drain exit relocated to flow away from the building and the steps. A new wall and pad was poured and the concrete was removed. This concrete was reused to reinforce the pipe under the Lake Bridge which has eroded from many storm rain runoff. This bridge needs repair and reinforcement before it should be used for heavy vehicles, particularly sand delivered to the Lake.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

Discussed Workshop on Windows: The workshop is scheduled for May 7, 2011 beginning at from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Archivist: Town needs a new Archivist. Estimated hours are for 3 to 5 hours per week. It is hoped the archived material will eventually be available online. The files are now all in place in the archives. A system of maintaining the files is also in place.

Draft of Letter to Town on the Proposed Anti-Mansionization Ordinance: Bob Booher will send the draft to the PC for further editing and review. This will go before the Town Meeting on March 24. Bob Booher will assist in drafting and editing the power point presentation will not be there for the meeting.

Welcoming to New Residents: The HPC decided to welcome new residents independently from the Woman's Club. Mimi Styles asked that her name be added to the list of people informed by the Town Office when new residents move into the Grove.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

The Recreation Committee is scheduled to meet on March 16, 2011 in McCathran Hall.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Joli McCathran

Joe Clark, Steve Werts, and I met to see and discuss plans and finances for the upgrade of the playground areas and equipment.

We view the deteriorating conditions of the playground safety boarders. Steve said he envision reconstructing and encompassing several smaller playground areas into one larger unit with the inclusion of a picnic table. The other areas require widening for compliance with industry safety standards and some need new barriers.

We assessed the condition of the wooden picnic tables. The Lake Committee is desirous of purchasing two new tables for the Lake and we thought we might add onto their purchase to at least save on shipping costs. Joe provided estimates and we agreed the purchase of composite materials and tables would be a beneficially sound purchase. Steve would be able to refurbish the existing frames. Joe responded with cost estimates and I cced the Lake Committee to see about bundling picnic table purchases.

We assessed the conditionof the fireplace and agreed to the necessary minor repairs and upgrade. However, to deter any cooking it was suggest the Town purchase 2 grills for charcoal cooking. It was suggested to install one near the fireplace and the other in the playground area.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS— Bill Robertson

Paving

Nothing to report this month

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract

The snow removal contractor was been utilized a second time this season. They made multiple passes through town during the latest snow fall event. All other snow events have been dealt with by Town Maintenance and volunteers.

Trash and Recycling Contract

Nothing to report

Leaf Collection

No word from U.S. Lawns on the issue discussed last month.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

Nothing to report this month.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Sylvie Favret

There hasn't been a committee meeting this month. The next lake committee meeting is Thursday, March 17. Currently there is a discussion over emails about the new fence put in at the entrance of Maple Lake on Washington Grove Lane.

WEBSITE—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Did not submit report this month.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Did not submit report this month.

MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Did not submit report this month.