

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—March 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 plan to add some rocks on the Center Street side and fill in some additional soil was delayed to address the 1995 Deed of Easement on McCathran Hall with the Maryland Historical Trust. The sketch and photos I brought to the last Council meeting are being submitted for the April 19 meeting of the Historical Trust review board along with their Change/Alteration Proposal Application. Since the change we are proposing is essentially maintenance to prevent soil erosion from the current beds we expect it to be approved. Any maintenance or change that affects the fabric or appearance of McCathran Hall needs to be submitted and approved this way.

Audrey Maskery and I went to Stadler on March 25 and purchased seven new trees and eight shrubs for installation in town. We worked with Maria Montefusco who is now a fulltime employee at Stadler and she worked with us to get favorable treatment on the shrubs (which are not covered by the Stadler tree sale). As result Stadler will deliver and plant the eight shrubs under the same 'free' planting arrangement that we get with the trees we buy during their spring and fall sales. This is a considerable advantage to the town since we can get plant material professionally installed and our Maintenance crew will not have to do it.

The meeting with Jeff Driscoll concerning reforestation along lower Ridge Road went very well. Toll has contracted with Care of Trees to do the cleanup. They will be clearing out debris, dead plant material and invasive non-natives. All sound trees will be retained. Care of Trees will also work with the landscaping form who installs the new plantings to make sure the existing trees are not harmed. The work is scheduled to begin around April 11. A letter has been sent to each of the lower Ridge residents outlining the work, schedule and the need for the workers to access the buffer area from both the Toll and the town side.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on March 2nd.

A permit was approved for a mower hutch at 127 Maple Avenue.

Work at 215 Washington Grove Lane was halted when we found that the owner did not have a Montgomery County permit. When the owner realized she needed one, she immediately agreed to stop work and got the necessary permit.

PC/HPC: The Planning Commission reviewed the slides for the public hearing for ZTA 2011-01: DRAFT ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3 AND 4 on March 24. The text of the joint PC/HPC letter was finalized by Eric Gleason and Bob Booher on March 21 and was entered in the public hearing record. The PC felt the public hearing went well on March 24.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

This month time was focused on cleaning up from the winter's damages and preparing for spring work. All Town property was inspected for spring work – parks, roads and walkways. Attention was given to Lower Ridge Road and the work of Toll Bros.

Drainage issues were worked on in the area of Woodward Park and from Brown Street to Railroad Street, removing the leaves and other debris. The ditch at McCauley and Grove was cleaned of leaves. At Maple and Oak, removed brush, leaves from the ditch and did the same at Dorsey and Grove Road. Cleaned ditch at McCauley and Cherry.

Work was done on the tennis court fence as well as rolling out the clay courts. Playground equipment received a final coat of paint and was reinstalled.

Arbor Day work predominated much of the time with the replacement, repair and maintenance of roadway signs, cutting of rounds and distribution of mulch for the April 9, 2011 efforts.

The winter damage from the storms resulted in a lot of brush and limbs to be picked up from the roads and walkways and taken to the Transfer Station. This also included picking up brush from residential property which had been approved by the Town Council on a one time basis.

Work was done around McCathran Hall, including repairs to the bathrooms, outside landscaping and distribution of river rock within the newly installed timbers.

Attention was given to the Town Nursery area with clean up of debris and dead branches.

Received the boards and structures for the new picnic tables at the Lake and Woodward Park.

At the Lake, repaired the fence where it had been overgrown, pulled the west end of the fence back into vertical, trimmed, cleaned brush and removed invasive vines from the fence area.

Designed and built a fence stretcher to better maintain the Lake fences and rebuilt a 35 foot section of fencing that had been damaged by falling trees.

The Gazebo and surrounding area was cleaned up in preparation for a wedding.

Several meetings were held with Council members and Town Committees - Forestry, Woods, Lake and Maintenance.

New gravel was spread along the shop driveway and around parking areas at McCathran Hall and Woodward Park

McCATHRAN HALL—Joe Clark

Safety and security checks were made, bathrooms had minor repairs and the outside landscaping was completed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

FY2012 Budget: The HPC's proposed FY2012 budget was review and accepted.

Archivist: Members discussed the need to hire a part-time archivist. The files are set up. The main tasks will be filing and entering data into the database. It was decided a job description needs to be written. David Neumann agreed to make a first attempt at a job description. The goal is to eventually put the archive database with photos and documents online.

Welcoming New Residents: The HPC decided its main goal is to make people who move into houses that are “contributing structures” aware of the historic value and of their homes and some of the incentives that exist to maintain that historic character.

HPC members decided to request the Town Clerk contact a designated member of the HPC, at this time, Mimi Styles, to let her know when a house changes hands. The HPC will then provide the new owner (if the house is a contributing structure) with a package on the specifics of the property related to its historic significance.

Windows Workshop: Details for this event were discussed.

Draft of Letter to Town on the Proposed Anti-Mansionization Ordinance: The PC wrote to the HPC it was not entirely satisfied with the Draft letter to the Town. The draft letter was re-edited by the HPC members. The Chair said he would send the re-edited letter to the PC. The HPC felt strongly the Town Council should consider passing a resolution stating that additional changes to the Town ordinances are needed to prevent mansionization, and that the PC/HPC discussions on further changes to the ordinances should continue.

Rules of Procedure: Members read over the final draft of the “HPC Rules of Procedure,” and discussed the material edited on “Demolition.” The members voted unanimously to adopt the current draft and the Chair signed the document.

Annual Historic Preservation Award: Suggestions were made for the award.

Permit Approval Process: The Town Clerk has suggested a member of the HPC receive applications and supporting documents to determine if the material is sufficient for a review. The PC is currently doing this. It was suggested the HPC provide the PC with guidelines on what the HPC needs and the PC point-person use those guidelines in addition to those of the PC to determine if the material presented in and with an application is sufficient. For the present time, the HPC will send someone to the Town Hall meeting room to look at the material submitted and check that it is sufficient.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

A Town resident made suggestions on recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. The Committee recommended the resident form a committee to plan events.

Plans for the Town party after the Town Meeting were discussed. All is in good order.

The Annual Fourth of July softball game is scheduled for Saturday, July 2, 2011. The Fourth of July activities were discussed.

The Committee discussed the possibility of a photography class for children.

Plans for Music Weekend were discussed. All is in good order.

The Halloween Party is scheduled for October 29, 2011.

The proposed FY 2012 budget was review and approved.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Joli McCathran

There was discussion and consensus to purchase new picnic tables and materials for repair of exiting tables. Joe Clark agreed to place the order. This order is to include two tables for the Lake Committee.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS— Bill Robertson

Paving

Nothing to report

Walkways

Two loads of gravel were purchased and spread on Center Street and Grove Avenue.

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract

Nothing to report

Trash and Recycling Contract

Nothing to report

Leaf Collection

The spring cleanup collection was completed April 5th. Final reconciliation with U.S. Lawns is pending.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

LAKE COMMITTEE—Sylvie Favret

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

WEBSITE—

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

MEMORIALS—

NO REPORT SUBMITTED