

COUNCIL REPORTS

JUNE 2011

CONTRACTS - Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract : Nothing to report

Trash and Recycling Contract: Nothing to report

Leaf Collection: Nothing to report

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Paving: Steve and I met with Jennifer Marlow of A.B. Veirs on June 29th to discuss needed road work on lower Ridge Road. An estimate to consist of milling and paving 1200 feet of roadway is forthcoming. Existing roadway is 14 feet wide and we discussed widening the lower end to provide more room to turn around without using residents' driveways. We explained that this estimate was for budgeting purposes only and that the proposed work would be part of our 2013 budget.

Walkways: Nothing to report

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

Recreation meeting was held on June 15, 2011. Missy Yachup/MK DuBois Chairs.

Seven people attended. Music Weekend plans were finalized. Fourth of July Plans were finalized including the ball game and the picnic. This info will be posted in the next Town Bulletin.

Craig English will be contacted to see if he is available and willing to organize Labor Day festivities.

The next recreation meeting will be in September.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

The Hall Committee is dormant for the summer but will meet again in September to review the condition of the Hall, to monitor the actions approved for the Hall in this fiscal year and to begin assessing what we might recommend to the Mayor and Council for inclusion in next year's budget.

WEB SITE – Alice Negin

Kathy Lehman and Alice Negin will schedule a meeting with Bill Saar to discuss any concerns and the possibility of using the Google calendar on the Town web site.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Pepco has concluded their review of Town trees that impact the town power supply. Pepco has applied to Maryland DNR Forest Service for the roadside tree project permit, as soon as DNR have issued the permit, the contract will be handed to Asplundh. The work should commence sometime early July.

A large number of old tree stumps have been removed from Town property, there are still more to remove possibly after Asplundh has finished their work.

A boom lift and one DNR licensed workman hired from Charley Musser was used for two days to remove dead branches overhanging walkways throughout Town.

The rocks placed alongside the Town Hall garden on Center Street will help to hold soil in place, additional soil and mulch have been added. Planting in this area will commence when the weather permits.

MONUMENTS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

The HPC meeting began at 7:45 pm at the home of Joli McCathran. There was no key available to open the Council meeting room.

Report by Council Liaison; Humpback Bridge: Joli reported Charlie Challstrom, Planning Commission Chair, had written to CSX and the County informing them that they must consult with the Town on changes to the bridge, since preservation of the Bridge is a provision of the Town Master Plan

Permit Review Procedure: David reported he and Bob Booher had gone to the Planning Commission meeting to discuss modifying the work permit process regarding HPC review. The HPC is viewed as an impediment to getting a Planning Commission stamp of approval. The desire is to consult early with the homeowner to gain consideration of the HPC's views prior to finalization of plans and submission of them to the Planning Commission.

The modified process will have the HPC review precede the permit application, coming at any time prior to the application. The HPC review document will go the Planning Commission with the permit application. There will be no "formal review" of the submitted application by HPC, unless the plans presented with the permit are not what the HPC consulted on. If a permit application is presented to the Planning Commission with no prior HPC consultation, the homeowner will be told to make an appointment with the HPC. It was the opinion of the Planning Commission that this change in procedure did not require an ordinance revision.

There was discussion of having a HPC liaison to the Planning Commission. Having a Planning Commission liaison to the HPC was also discussed.

Hall Easement: Joli reported that the modifications (regarding landscaping changes) to the easement on the Town Hall held by the Maryland Historical Trust were approved by the Trust.

Future Workshops: Gail reported on an inquiry she made to Brian Blundell about doing a workshop on energy-savings and weather-proofing in historic houses. There was a discussion to host a tax credit or energy-savings workshop.

New Business—Heritage Days participation in 2012: There was some discussion of how the Town could participate in next year's Heritage Days. It was agreed that the HPC would invite Peggy Erickson of Heritage Montgomery to attend a meeting in Fall 2011 to discuss.

PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Steve Werts has purchased the materials for reconstructing the barriers around playground equipment and for the parking lot barriers in the playground and ball field parking areas.

The one side of the tennis fence is being installed. Linda Baim is asking that the fees collected for the summer tennis lessons be designated towards replacement of the tennis fence.

WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The committee met on June 28, 2011 with Brenda Sandberg, LOS Project Coordinator. There is some disconnect with the interpretation of the easement between the Town and Ms. Sandberg. Ms. Sandberg suggested our attorneys discuss this if necessary. Her desire is to move forward with plans.

Ms. Sandberg outlined the development of the park in two major steps:

1. Initial Clean Up: This will include Pepco removing and cutting from plants and trees from power lines along Ridge Road. This area is not within the park but is part of the Ridge Road easement. Pepco has applied for the permit to do this work.
The MNCPPC will remove non-native invasives and dead, dying, and/or hazardous trees. Concerns were discussed about the impact of this and requested planting be done as soon as the invasive plant material is removed.
2. Concept Phase: Ms. Sandberg outlined the operation and use plan to be developed. She touched on the maintenance schedule, plantings, and the possible addition of a kiosk with maps and additional information about the trails. This would include mapping out (GPS) the area, including specific trees. The group discussed the clustering of trees in areas of the field and the thickening of the existing tree line. There was discussion on access and the plantings.

Discussion ensued regarding Casey 6 and 7. The stream bed encroachment on Casey 6 requires mitigation in the form of reforestation. It was suggested P&P ask the County to do some of the reforestation on the LOS property rather than further away from the site. Ms. Sandberg agreed to follow through on this suggestion.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

Several parents told me their concern about large hooks (2") been found around the lake. Also a child came out the water with lines and a hook in her hair. Other residents complained about the way the turtle was lured with large pieces of chicken, was hurt by a hook and died at the animal rescue center "Second Chance". Irresponsible and dangerous behavior need to be addressed.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Following recent incidents in the parking area of Woodward Park, several residents expressed their concern about the gates being left open at night. It was suggested to develop a system by which both gates (Mulch Alley and Woodward Park) be closed at sundown every day. It would deter cars from parking there specifically at night and from becoming a meeting point for individuals (we assume non-residents) engaged in suspicious activities.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

This month, the tennis fence was completed along the Grove Road side. Plans are to obtain the balance of the materials needed for the remainder of the perimeter of the courts and complete the replacement of the existing poles and fencing over the next several weeks.

Mowing continued throughout the month, cutting as needed the Lake, the 7 parks, walkways, along the streets in the right-of-way and the soccer field.

There was some minor plumbing repair work done on Town Hall, work on street signs and stop signs as needed and completion of the maintenance garage storage structure.

The landscaping along the perimeter of McCathran Hall was a major part of this month's work. The addition of top soil and tilling it into the existing earth was a great improvement to the health of the plantings. With the new rocks along Center Street, the area has been stabilized and the runoff which has for years been a problem has been mitigated.

Another major part of the work this month consisted of tree work, both the grinding of stumps, felling of dead trees and the trimming of trees using a boom lift for work in the walkways, parks and other problem areas.

The diving board was installed at the lake and the gator bags were placed around the new trees. Watering of selected trees was completed. The broken gate at the Lake was repaired and the roller for the tennis court was welded. Timbers (6" x 6") for the park barriers were received, covered and stored at the Town Garage.

As always, the part-time employee(s) and volunteers greatly enhanced the amount of work accomplished, making it possible to do all the work needed for this small municipality.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

Several issues were discussed.

1. A report from Charlie Challstrom and Brenda Gumula was received about the Town boundaries at the Deer Park Bridge and Railroad Ave.
2. Discussion of Casey 6 & 7 and the access to Railroad Ave by Roberts Oxygen; also, the area between Roberts Oxygen and the railroad tracks remains a question mark as to what will be proposed for the strip of land. The Town has a significant interest in this because of the proposed bikeway and possible vehicular traffic along this area. The issue will be brought up at the Town Council and in a letter to CSX and the County.
3. There was discussion about the permit for 110 Grove Ave. Peter Nagrod will contact the owner
4. Eric Gleason will be resigning from the Commission due to moving out of the area. Many expressions of appreciation were made. It was noted that Charlie Challstrom will be appointed to the Planning Commission on June 13.