

COUNCIL REPORTS

March 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

The next meeting will be March 21, 2012 in the Old Council Room at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming events:

Mousetrap Concerts – March 25th, Jazz Concert – April 22nd, Soprano – The concerts are on Sundays at 3pm in McCathran Hall. Tickets are available.
Program for Children – April 15th

Missy Yachup has discussed budget needs for next year with Mary Challstrom.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

The lower Hall furnace died after 16 years of service to the Hall. A new furnace was purchased and installed in the Hall by Hoffacher's Heating and Air-conditioning. The price of the furnace was \$4000.00.

Consulting with Maintenance, the Hall committee decided to purchase a buffer for the Hall floors. The price of the buffer was approximately \$300.00. The idea is that the finish on the floor can be better maintained if we have our own buffer.

Ann Briggs, Chair of the Hall Committee has submitted a proposed budget for the Hall to Mary Challstrom.

WEBSITE – Alice Negin

Kathy Lehman updates the Town calendar on the website. Log on to see Hall rental dates and other Town events.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

This past month, the Commission held two meetings, one for regular business and the second dealing specifically with the re-zoning request by the Towne Crest Apartments adjacent to the West Woods.

At the regular meeting, the following Permit Applications were considered:

- 201 Maple Road – Snyder – the application to enclose the carport into a garage was denied 5-0. The applicant indicated that he would ask for a variance.
- 215 Washington Grove Lane – both the Town and County permits have expired and the applicant will have to reapply for the permit.
- 302 Ridge Road – The shed has been moved to its proper location and is in compliance with the request of the Commission.

The budget request for FY 2012-13 was discussed and submitted to cover the costs for surveys and code enforcement officer expenses.

Planning Commission SPECIAL MEETING, MARCH 26, 2012

Following the approval by the Town Council to retain an attorney to help formulate a response to the re-zoning application by Towne Crest Apartments, the firm of Knopf and Brown, Rockville,

was contracted to work on the issue. Their analysis of the application and the PC's response has been very helpful. The result is a strengthened document which PC discussed. A copy of this document is found in the minutes of the PC's March minutes.

The Commission learned from Chairman Challstrom that as a result of the concerns raised by the Town, as well as the Town's work with the local area planning staff of Montgomery County, the Towne Crest application hearing date has been moved to early September, 2012.

The PC reworked the draft document concerning the Towne Crest application and recommend it be submitted to the Town Council for acceptance.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Joe Clark

We are continuing to work with the City of Gaithersburg and neighborhood organizations on the Towne Crest proposed rezoning application.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

Projects: 10 Center Street - HPC had an early consultation with Pat DiBella and John Hagedorn regarding their property at 10 Center Street. The homeowners explained their renovation may or may not expand the current footprint of their home. The HPC answered their general questions, made some suggestions for their consideration, and referred them to the Planning Commission for their inquiry regarding setback issues.

201 Maple Avenue - Due to an oversight, Jim Snyder's February building permit application to enclose the carport at 201 Maple Avenue was not forwarded in a timely manner to HPC for its review. In the meantime, the Planning Commission denied the building permit application at its March meeting, and the homeowner has requested a BZA hearing. Bob Booher will write up HPC's review, based on discussions during the meeting.

Towne Crest Development: HPC agreed that it will wait until the new development plan for Towne Crest is set forth before issuing further comments.

Town Council Liaison Joli McCathran reported that the owners of Towne Crest apartments have requested a postponement of its rezoning hearing from March to September.

The Town has retained the services of a land-use attorney vis a vis the Towne Crest issue. The resignation of the town attorney Bill Roberts was also reported.

EMOC: Bob reported he had provided the architect in charge of the "salt barn" project some suggestions about breaking up the roofline and mass of the salt barn as well as adding some details. Bob has had conversations with the architect, who said he would ask his contractors for the costs associated with Bob's suggested changes. Bob related the architect's suggestions for breaking up the massive exterior by use of two paint colors.

Joli McCathran reported that she, along with Shelley Winkler and Wendy Harris, had visited the existing EMOC/ salt barns (Crabbs Branch) recently and observed some operations there.

Expanding Historic District: Town Resident Wendy Harris was unable to attend the meeting, but distributed her report by e-mail earlier in the day. The advisability of expanding the historic district in 3 parts/steps (woods, houses, LOS) was discussed, as was the possibility/advisability of expanding the historic district to include the LOS field before the latter is annexed to the Town.

Gail reported she had recommended that Wendy contact Clare Kelly for guidance in the process of expanding the historic district, as Clare is Montgomery County's National Register "liaison."

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

As requested, I met with Officer Scott Zimmerman, Community Liaison, Montgomery County Police Department regarding police enforcement of our athletic field. I have asked the Mayor to add a time for discussion on the next meeting agenda.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The Park was bush hogged and mowed by M-NCPPC maintenance within the last month under the direction of Mike Jones, Park Manager II. M-NCPPC had again contracted to remove non-native invasive plant material along Ridge Road and the tree buffer areas. Also they are working on the installation of trees. This work may not happen this spring. Brenda Sandberg is working towards a fall planting.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Trash and Recycling: Potomac Disposal submitted the low bid for the up-coming three year contract and was selected by a 5-1 vote of the Council at the budget work session

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Stop signs around Town are being refaced for improved visibility.

The McCathran Hall sign was removed for repainting and reinstalled.

The debris from topping the four dead trees in the park was cleared and cut for firewood.

Nine loads of brush and debris were taken to the transfer station.

A concrete drainage vault was fabricated and installed at the intersection of Center and Chestnut.

The area around the vault was backfilled to eliminate the deep ditch behind Town Hall.

The new furnace was inspected and the installation was passed by the WSSC inspector.

The Lake aeration pump was reinstalled and is operating.

Several holes in the Lake fencing were repaired.

Trash and a dead tree were removed from the Lake enclosure.

The Lake roadway and parking lot were cleared of leaves and debris.

The Towns fire extinguishers were inspected and passed during the annual inspection.

The Council Room exterior doors were sanded, primed and painted.

The paver walkways to the Town Hall entrance were repaired to eliminate the trip hazard.

The fire lane drainage at Center near Hickory was cleared and the signs repaired.

Planting beds and the graveled areas around Town Hall were given a spring cleaning.

The graffiti spray painted on the floor of the Gazebo was removed by sanding then buffing the floor. The graffiti removal from the ceiling remains to be done.

Scrap metal removed from the West Woods in the latest trash out was recycled.

Two dogwood trees were transported from the nursery and planted.

Drainage swales were reestablished along Chestnut Road at Center St and at McCauley St.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Two Cherokee Brave Dogwoods (pink) have been planted by Town Maintenance, one on Grove Road in the East Woods not far from the Hawthorn (planted last fall) and one in the forest conservation land near 217 Ridge Road.

I Star Magnolia, 1 Styrax Japonica, 1 Redbud – Texas (White) and 2 Sweet Box have been purchase for planting by Stadler in the front entrance garden in Morgan Park.

4 Pieris Japonica and 4 Azaleas have been purchased for Town Hall garden. Mr. Terry Cox has donated 3 Azaleas; these will be planted in Town Hall garden before Arbor Day.

1 Crape Myrtle will be planted at the entrance to Tennis court car park also to be planted by Stadler.

Many of these trees were purchased using \$200.00 vouchers provided by PEPCO under their ‘Vegetation Management Tree Replacement’ program.

The next F&B meeting will be held 26 April and will be the final meeting before Arbor Day. We expect that a good number of volunteers will be available for Arbor Day McCathran Hall Beautification on Saturday 28 April.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery: A bronze cast plaque has been purchased and placed on a tennis court bench in memory of Mary Kay DuBois.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

2 geese are staking out their territory but no signs of any nest. The algae is bad; Hutch has been raking it up in anticipation of the clean-up day to prevent more growth during this warm weather.

It was decided to eliminate the phone landline no longer necessary since everybody now has a cell phone.

Annual Lake Clean-up: Saturday, April 21st at 10:00, with rain-day on Sunday at 12:00 Noon. We can use leaf rakes, wheelbarrows, pitchfork, clippers, although we usually have plenty of tools to go around.

Lifeguards: We are have 6 applicants, but could consider more until late April.

Combination Lock: The inner gate combo will change on April 22nd.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 18 at 7:30 PM in the Council Room.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret – Nothing to report.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING COMMITTEE – Sylvie Favret

The committee continues to review requests for new shields.