

COUNCIL REPORTS

October 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee is December 19 at 7:30 pm.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark: Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The snow removal contract request for bids was sent out to seven contractors and the Council will open and consider the proposals at the November meeting.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Stadler Nursery planted a White Oak near #2 the Circle, a Sweet Gum in Howard Park plus a Kousa Dogwood in Chapel Park. The second Stadler planting will be early in November for a Hawthorne near # 1 the Circle and a Crabapple near # 113 Chestnut Avenue. We will receive additional trees from Waynesboro Nursery in November; these will be planted by our town maintenance.

A mature town maple tree planted directly over a broken sewer pipe at 118 Grove Avenue, regrettably, will need to be removed. Any Town tree proposed for removal is reviewed on a 'case by case' basis by both Forestry and Maintenance to make the decision. A large tree will be planted as a replacement. F&B will take into consideration the current sewer and water lines before planting in the area. The new owners of 118 Grove Avenue have kindly offered a donation towards the new tree.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery: Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Projects: Historic Preservation Commission members discussed the building permit application for installation of a pre-fabricated/kit garage (to be visible from public way) at 402 Ridge Road. Mimi Styles is to draft the HPC review.

Bob Booher provided an overview of the topics addressed during this month's PC meeting as the HPC liaison. Attention was drawn to the review of a driveway expansion at 123 Washington Grove Lane. The discussion revolved around the value (or not) of the HPC interjecting its concerns/viewpoints and whether or not this topic would fit under the purview of HPC. Bob will contact Charlie Challstrom for more details about this to discern whether a building permit was submitted for this expansion or if it's a matter of expanding onto town property. If a building permit, in fact, was submitted, HPC would want to clearly identify what the issues HPC would be reviewing that could supplement the Town review.

Archive Report: Washington Grove Band Music Box. During September we have concentrated on this project because this box, which was "stuffed" with music and folders from the Band, was removed from the archives room during the water leak to keep it dry. The time frame for all of this is early 1900's. We have learned this box belonged to Irving Leroy McCathran and had been

stored along with the music in the Briggs family's basement until 2011. The contents have been organized and the information entered into Past Perfect. This includes a short untitled poem (author unknown) about the war being over. We determined that it was written after WWI, presumably by a Grove resident (possibly a McCathran).

Scanner: The Town has purchased a new scanner so the various documents being scanned can be "searchable". We have now used the scanner for the 1941 and 1942 minutes and other projects.

Conservation Montgomery is a nonprofit coalition of civic and environmental organizations and individual residents. This group has arranged to have a "Community Stroll" in Washington Grove on Sunday afternoon, Oct 28th to be led by Joli McCathran. Conservation Montgomery has led "Community Strolls" over the past 2 years because of its commitment to highlight unique and/or natural resources within our communities in the County. These strolls are a chance to explore communities and hear about rich cultural or natural history of a particular area.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Montgomery County Parks Department sent a crew who raked and graded the Non-Native Invasive (NNI)-intense area along Ridge Road from #118 to 204. It has been sown with their Piedmont native meadow grass mix. This will control erosion, soften the landscape and build up soil. MCPD plans to plant new trees this fall in the area along Ridge. More new trees are planned for the border between the upper and lower field and the other edges of the Meadow, but these will be installed gradually over the next couple of years.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Steve Werts met with a structural engineer regarding the wall separation at McCathran Hall and subsequently took more photos of the area as requested by the engineer. The building was judged safe for normal use but we do not yet have a recommendation on repairs.

In addition to normal maintenance tasks (such as mowing) fencing was replaced at the Lake, grading and seeding done around the Woman's Clubhouse, and repairs were made to ready the TracVac for fall leaf collection. Limbs and debris were cleaned up from Hurricane Sandy. Steve has finished another round of cleaning in the Lower Ridge roadside area. He plans to start applying wood chips to this area so that over a period of a couple of years we can get a smoother base to ease maintenance in this area.

At the Maintenance Shed Steve has replaced the rotted wood siding on the building and applied a solid stain to the wood surfaces. The overall appearance of the shed is greatly improved.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

The Lake Committee reports that, due to recent heavy rains, the lake is full to capacity and there is no need to fill it using the pumps. The Committee also reports that damage to the fence

resulting from downed trees in the July storm has been repaired and is now complete around the entire perimeter. However, there was a recent report that the lock and gate was broken. The lock was replaced and the gate will be repaired soon.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

The Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee continues to meet regularly and is working to develop various recommended processes for Town lighting decisions. Residents that made previous requests for light shielding were contacted again after installation of the new, lower-wattage bulbs to determine who still wishes to have shielding installed. A list of those applying for shielding is being maintained.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to Report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

The Hall committee met and discussed various issues. Overall, it was agreed that the Hall is in very good condition for a 110-year old building and thanks are due to the Town maintenance squad and others. The Winter Event producers/directors have suggested that some way to cover or partition the back of the stage would allow both possible scenery changes and perhaps space for actors to stand until called. A simple and inexpensive solution was agreed upon—to install a few hooks up in the ceiling and a curtain which could be attached or removed easily (and would only be in place for specific events). Also, Chairperson Ann Briggs is contacting companies for estimates/bids on restoring the frames of windows in the upper hall (this will be dependent on weather and cost). Window blind cord replacement is continuing and options are being looked at for an outside storage area for traffic cones currently stored in the Hall lift or wherever else there is room.

Discussion also took place about the outside corner separation in the Hall. A Historic Preservation Engineer and Maintenance Supervisor Werts checked this out and determined the Hall is safe for occupancy. Steve Werts and others are working on a solution to address the issue.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

A permit to build a fence at 302 Ridge Road was approved. The permit application for a garage at the same address will be on the November agenda.

A proposal for a parking area for a driveway at 123 Washington Grove Lane that would be partially on town property was discussed. Charlie Challstrom presented a history of the request and then a history of the Town's process, citing Town Ordinances, State Code, and the 2009 Master Plan language. The Kennett's will revise their plan and are expected to come back to the Planning Commission in November. Subsequently, after meeting with Steve Werts, they informed him they have decided to make a 15-foot wide straight line driveway to their home.