

COUNCIL REPORTS

November 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

The Recreation Committee will meet on December 19th at 7:30 pm in the Council room.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark

The Town web site will be reviewed by a small committee to assess the costs, possible changes and other improvements which can and should be made to the site. Many thanks go to Bill Saar who maintains the site.

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The Council approved the bid for snow removal of Lion Contractors. This is the same company which the Town has used for the past few years. The Town maintenance crew will continue to provide sand at the critical intersections as needed.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Report by Council Liaison: Joli McCathran reported there was a Gazette article about the announcement of the Town's nomination for the Preservation Maryland Most Endangered list. ABC News 7 also contacted Joli McCathran for additional information. (Addendum: The same Post article was published in the Home section of the Nov. 22, 2012 Washington Post. The Gaithersburg Gazette published an opinion on November 28, 2012 stating the protection for the Town of Washington Grove should be on the County level as opposed to the State.)

Joli McCathran also updated the HPC on the maintenance plan for the development of the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow Park, presented to the Council by Brenda Sandberg, Montgomery County Parks. The Town committee will review the plan and meet on whether to accept it.

Joli McCathran updated the HPC on Jim Snyder's garage project proposal.

Bridge: Bob Booher reported on progress in planning with CSX on mitigation for the bridge project.

Planning Commission Liaison: Mimi Styles reported on the Nov 7th PC meeting. The Planning Commission considered the 123 Washington Grove Lane parking issue and decided to allow a one lane wide drive through the Washington Grove right of way. Historic Preservation Commission members questioned whether the total number and character of personal and commercial vehicles parked at the home was in compliance with Town ordinances.

The Planning Commission approved the Shank family proposal for a garage/storage building. The Historic Preservation Commission discussed improving transmission of Historic Preservation Commission review comments to permit applicants, e. g., electronically. The Planning Commission discussed how to obtain the required level of detail in permit applications.

Mayor Georgette Cole asked the Planning Commission to consider more stringent regulation of deck construction. Also discussed were various forms of occupation/use of Town property by residents.

New Business: The HPC discussed a response to a letter received from John Tomlin.

Joli McCathran updated the HPC on the oral history project being carried forward by Judy Mroczka and Ken McCathran. This will be added to the January agenda.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

See comments under the Historic Preservation Commission Liaison report.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Considerable time this month was spent clearing leaves from public spaces. This activity put a strain on the mowers and Trac-vac units. This wear and tear has resulted in time and money being spent on equipment maintenance.

The storms earlier in the month required Maintenance to spend time preparing for and cleaning up after each event.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

The Outdoor Lighting Committee is further developing a lighting request form and the criteria for deciding about particular requests for lighting changes; working on assessing the light shields that were installed in October; and following up on requests for shields to determine if residents are still interested in having their requests considered. The Committee is also continuing to gather information toward developing a draft long-term plan for Town lighting. The Committee will not meet again until February.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

The Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Dinner will be held on 13 December. Two Town representatives will attend.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

On November 20, a report by engineer David Wallace was received on the observed vertical separation in the corner to the left of the Hall's entrance. The Hall Committee will meet on December 3rd to review the report and determine the next steps.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

A building permit application for a garage at 302 Ridge Road was approved.

Laura and Terry Kennett at 123 Washington Grove Lane stated that they had now decided to make a 15- ft. wide, straight gravel driveway. This will not be their primary parking area. The Planning Commission recommended that the Town Council approve the revised plan.

Peter Nagrod reported that the Washington Grove Lane sidewalk project has been completed.

Freda Temple presented revisions to the Planning Commission language that appears on the website and in the bulletin; she will do further work on this with help from the Commission and the Clerk.

It was noted that a review could be done regarding the Town process or lack thereof for the driveway permitting process; a process for fixing non-compliances, non-conformities and encroachments when property is sold; adding notes to the property files about non-compliances, non-conformities and encroachments; and identifying current encroachment on Town property. Mayor Cole asked the Commission to review Article IV; Section 5(a) 5. This ordinance waives the need for a building permit under certain conditions.