

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **April 2013**

#### **RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark**

See annual report. Nothing new to report.

#### **WEBSITE – Joe Clark**

See annual report. Nothing new to report.

#### **CONTRACTS – Joe Clark**

See annual report. Nothing new to report.

#### **FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery**

Kelly Landscaping transplanted trees from Town Nursery to various sites in effort to thin out trees planted in the nursery over many years. One large oak sapling planted too close to PEPCO power lines was moved across Oak Street and planted in an area left open tree loss, five Crape Myrtles also planted close to Maintenance garage to provide screen. Town contractor, Myers and Laws, has continued to stump grind on public property. This program is close to completion.

A new pathway engineered by the own Maintenance, provides safe passage from Chestnut Street to the Council room.

Four new Azaleas were planted in the garden close to Council room during Arbor Day. One flat of white Snapdragons and one flat of Hypoestes ‘white splash’ also planted by Town volunteers during Arbor Day.

#### **MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery**

Nothing to report.

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran**

Report by Council Liaison: Joli McCathran reported the Council approved the HPC budget as proposed, with the addition of \$500 for an HPC secretary and a COLA salary increase for the Town Archivist. Wendy Harris was appointed as member to the HPC by the Mayor and Council.

HPC Award: The HPC decided on the recipient of the annual Historic Preservation Award to be announced at the Town Meeting.

Most Endangered Designation: The HPC discussed how to publicize its selection for the Most Endangered Sites list by Preservation Maryland. Bob Booher will draft a letter to the County Council about the listing. Dave Stopak will draft an op-ed piece for the Gazette or other publications. Wendy Harris will draft a press release.

**New business:** Joli McCathran reported maintenance for the clay tennis courts is included in the 2013 budget (ends July 1, 2013), but not in the 2014 budget. The Capital Improvement Budget (CIP) for 2015 includes \$25K for paving of the clay tennis courts. Joli McCathran asked the HPC for its thoughts on the proposed replacement of the clay courts with asphalt. The HPC discussed the value to the Town of tennis playing in general and of maintenance of the clay courts in particular. A letter will be drafted to send to the Town.

#### **PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran**

The Town received a request for an outside-of-Town group to use Woodward Park for a private event. The current permit process needs discussion to clarify the process and the permit form. This will be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

#### **WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran**

The final Operations and Use Plan for the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow Park from Brenda Sandberg, MNCPPC, Legacy Open Space is planned for presentation to the Town in July. Since the original charge to the Meadow Committee from Mayor Darrell Anderson has been completed, Mayor Georgette Cole is disbanding the Park Committee. This will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting May 11 and our appreciation for all who served will be expressed.

#### **ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson**

Town maintenance cleared brush along Maple Ave and Brown Street and Cherry Avenue.

#### **MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson**

Mowing season is in full swing. The field is being mowed twice a week due to the cool temperatures and rain.

Christmas tree collection and disposal continued into the month of April. Really!

A new timber and gravel walkway was constructed at the Town Hall.

The roof of the non-octagon portion of the Town Hall was replaced by Thom. C. Johnson, Inc. Cleanup of tree debris at the lake continued. Debris was chipped into the woods. Barley bails were removed and replaced.

The street light on Day lily Lane was repaired for a second time. One light on Brown was also repaired.

A concrete pad was constructed at Anne's Folly.

The clutch in the town truck was replaced in-house.

Mulching and landscape work completed at Town Hall.

#### **MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber**

Final preparations for the summer season are underway. A schedule of lifeguards has been completed and a contact list has been distributed. The Committee continues to address ongoing (but, apparently, intermittent) recurrence of geese at the lake. The Committee is monitoring the situation, is seeking to find holes in the fence that may allow the geese to enter, and it exploring various ways to deter their use of the lake.

#### **SAFETY – Greg Silber**

Nothing to report

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber**

At the Mayor's request, various Council members plan to attend upcoming monthly meetings of the Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance at which various issues of common interest to the Alliance and the Town will be discussed. Silber will attend the Alliance's May meeting.

**MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young**

In April, the Thomas Johnson company completed its work of installing a new roof on the non-octagonal part of the Hall. Oak Grove Restoration plans to start in early August its work of repairs and a new roof on the octagon part of the Hall.

**PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young**

A building permit application for a garage at 315 Brown St. was approved.

201 Maple Rd. Request for a Change in Address—Chairman Challstrom explained that Mayor Cole wanted the Commission to review this request and forward a report/recommendation to the Council. The Commission reviewed the history of the 25 ft. strip of Town property along the east side of Maple Rd, the PC's responsibility to determine an address in the case of ambiguities, the use of historic precedent and compatibility to justify keeping the current front yard on Maple Rd., the two denials by the Board of Zoning Appeals, and other factors. After further discussion, the PC approved a final report/recommendation to be sent to the Town Council.

Draft Ordinance No. 2013-02 (Ordinance to Amend Article IV “Building Permit Regulations” to Modify the List of Structures for which Permits are not Required): The Commission made a few changes to the draft language. The most significant change is that now a permit is required for the construction of a deck of any size. The draft ordinance of 2013-02 was then approved to be sent to the Town Council for consideration.