

COUNCIL REPORTS

July 2013

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

HPC Review-Preliminary: Homeowners Leigh O’Donoghue and Mike Larkin attend the meeting requesting a discussion of their plan to construct a shed on their property at 115 Washington Grove Lane. The HPC offered to prepare a Preliminary Review to submit to the Planning Commission. The building permit application was not complete. It is their desire to construct a matching shed opposite an existing one on the rear of their property.

The HPC letters sent to County Executive and County Council regarding the Preservation Maryland/Endangered selection of the Town resulted in County Executive Ike Leggett attending the Fourth of July parade. Ike Leggett raised the flag at our request.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Clay Court Committee: The Committee and other Town residents met for the second time at 7:30 p.m. on 23 July. The group’s discussion focused primarily on:

- A report from Joli on a trip to Mountain Lake Park, Maryland and a tour of the community’s clay courts
- The continued need to get cost estimates for the suite of possible conversion options and/or maintenance of the existing courts
- Various types of court surfaces and ways to apply white court boundary lines to soft courts
- The extent of current use of the courts
- Ways to generate more interest in tennis among Town residents, including young residents

It was also agreed the group should improve its understanding of the various kinds of court surfaces, (e.g., “true” clay, hard surfaces), the types of materials used in each, the range of costs to install them, and the types and amounts of maintenance (both seasonal and annual) involved in each. We agreed our next meeting should be devoted to hosting a number of knowledgeable people – i.e., court construction and maintenance companies, local tennis professionals, etc. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in McCathran Hall

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkievian

An incident of a man exposing himself was reported. The Montgomery County Police responded. Otherwise, all is well.

SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkivian

There has been a rise in theft in the town this July. Keith Gillis issued information and recommendations to residents to prevent and if necessary to report crimes. Keith asked the Montgomery County Police for additional patrols but said that seemed unlikely. Keith himself has been patrolling the Town on Friday and Saturday nights. Young suspects were apprehended in Gaithersburg and things seemed to have quieted down. We will be updating current lists and recruiting new block captains in the near future.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkivian

We are currently discussing options for periodic proofing and updating information on our website.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Gravel was added to the parking lot at Clapperton Courts and a skid-loader was borrowed to spread the material.

Space was created at the Maintenance Garage for gravel storage.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Purchased truck with snow plow for Town
Cleared brush and underbrush from lower Ridge Road
Watered newly planted trees
Pruned dead wood from Town Nursery stock
Treated Maple Lake for algae
Fixed lock at Maple Lake....again
Repairs were made to playground equipment
Frequency of mowing has slowed a bit
Flags displayed for July 4th holiday
Applied crack sealant to the asphalt court
Repainted lines on the basketball courts
Performed other duties as required

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

A request for proposals (with a 3-week deadline) was distributed to solicit bids for leaf removal for the coming year. The Council will review bids at its August meeting.

A letter was sent to refuse contractor, Potomac Disposal, asking that when possible the company should use its smaller refuse removal trucks in Town (as indicated in the contract), but the Town understands that on some occasions (e.g., those involving maintenance issues), the company's larger trucks may be needed. An arrangement has also been made with this contractor to store large, hand-pushed containers near the maintenance garage.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber

The July 4th festivities were another big success this year! Turnout was strong and the traditional parade, prizes, speeches, softball game, and potluck dinner were much enjoyed.

Plans are underway for the annual Labor Day Field Day contests and festivities. Announcements on specifics will appear in the Town Bulletin.

The Committee is discussing a 26 October “Punkin Carving Festival” and a Washington Grove Tee-Shirt design contest. Details will be announced. A Fall “**Bluestober Fest**” is also being considered.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Nothing to report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

Building Permit Applications- the Chairman acknowledged receipt of the HPC review for 122 Chestnut Avenue.

Development of Harrison Property (17050 Railroad Street)- Chairman Challstrom summarized the history of this property which included Town attempts to annex it, which occurred in May 2007. There had been very little communication until a recent inquiry from David McKee from Benning & Associates; it appears Mr. McKee would like to get started on the development of this property on behalf of the Harrisons. The Commission will require a subdivision plat/plan that shows building restriction lines (BRL), and house and garage locations. Also, the PC’s collective understanding is that the Plat of Subdivision for this property must be accompanied by architectural drawings. The chairman reiterated his hope that the process would allow for an HPC review after the plan is submitted.