

## COUNCIL REPORTS

October 2014

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Georgette Cole**

Permit reviews: Garage at 201 Maple Ave. Bob Booher had plans he received by email from Jim Snyder's contractor. He felt they were adequate for HPC review. The HPC discussed the plans and Mimi Styles will write the review to go to the Planning Commission by October 1.

House at 203 2nd Avenue. Eva Polston came with her architect, Bob Reinhardt, to discuss the plans for rebuilding her home. This involves an application for a permanent easement from the Town Council to allow her to rebuild her front porch on Town land. The HPC listened and then discussed the plans. The HPC reaction was generally favorable. The addition of window(s) or dormer(s) to break up the front part of the west elevation was recommended. There was also concern over the large triangular window that surmounts the front porch roof and faces 2nd Avenue. The HPC recommends a more appropriately scaled and traditionally designed window configuration be selected as the entire 2nd Avenue elevation should represent the utmost compatibility with the historic district. Mimi will write the formal review which will go to the Planning Commission by October 1.

The addition of height as an element of non-compliance in the new Draft Zoning Text Amendment forwarded by Charlie Challstrom from the Planning Commission was also discussed. The HPC is concerned that this restriction will encourage owners of the historic cottages to teardown rather than remodel.

### **SHADY GROVE CROSSING – Georgette Cole**

At the invitation of Nasim Ahmed, President of the Shady Grove Crossing Home Owners Association (HOA), I attended their monthly meeting on September 30. I introduced myself and spoke briefly. The meeting was an interesting look at how their governing body functions and what issues they are currently dealing with. The development is administered by MTM Management Associates who oversee finances and services for the community. Their representative is Ron Godsey.

Toll Brothers is close to finalizing their construction and responsibility to the development before turning it over completely to Montgomery County and the HOA. Currently Montgomery County will not release building permits for the last three houses until the playground is completed to their specifications and turned over to the MC Parks Department. Final cleaning, mulching, and removal of the protective fencing around the Black Gum tree will be done in October. I have emailed Craig Clark (the Toll representative) to inform him three trees they promised to remove from the Black Gum drip line must be moved before or during this process.

Audrey Maskery and I have reviewed the buffer area along lower Ridge Road. Although the plantings in general are doing well there are two areas that need more specimens. We will add two American Hollies and two Shasta Viburnum across the street from 358 Ridge where a perpendicular section of Picea View Court causes severe headlight intrusion. Another Holly and two Viburnum will be added across from 346-350 Ridge where the current plantings are rather

thin. I have notified Craig Clark, Ron Godsey and Nasim Ahmed these will be installed by Stadler in October.

### **WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Georgette Cole**

A Parks Department contract team treated the Meadow for mile-a-minute and wisteria in September.

### **FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery**

Six trees purchased for fall planting from Stadler. Five (5) of the trees qualified for State and County 'Native tree' incentive vouchers.

Three (3) American Hollies will provide screening on lower Ridge Road, as well as four (4) Shasta Viburnums.

One (1) Red Oak and one (1) Red Maple - Woodward Park.

One (1) Zelkova (Japanese Elm) Chestnut Avenue, plus one (1) White Oak planted earlier - both trees replace two (2) dead trees removed earlier in year.

Woods Group - Ann Briggs - chair

Meeting 4 October discussed the acceptance of Parkton contract to provide counseling on management of East and West Woods. There will be a meeting to confirm Parkton understands the Town's requirements for both woods.

A request for Daylily Lane access to the American Chestnut Trail was discussed, it was decided that this request needed additional research.

A West Woods trail work day will take place on 8 November.

### **MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery**

A plan to place a bench in memory of Nicho Lembesis close to Nicho's favorite fishing spot has been undertaken by Meghan O'Connell.

### **McCATHRAN HALL – John McClelland**

Nothing to report.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION – John McClelland**

Building Permits etc

- 201 Maple Rd – construction drawings/plans insufficient to evaluate
- 203 Second Ave – Demolition to begin soon. Discussion on future easement and preliminary drawings presented. HPC review regarding new construction included recommendations for areas of home located within the front setbacks.
- 121 Chestnut Ave - temporary use permit issued for prefab shed. Location and plans to be reviewed by the HPC and then PC at next month's meeting. Proposed setbacks are well beyond the distances listed under Article VII Section 9 and the covenants pertaining to the adjoining land transfer.
- 315 Grove Ave – Future easement to be presented in two (2) parts vs. three (3) per the recommendation of Joe Snyder (surveyor). The front porch area is one area and the two rear corners near Grove Ave to be combined into the other – due to their small size.

### Public Ways

- Deer Park Bridge – Clark Construction to replace property marker located “in” Railroad St. The PC chair conveyed that Snyder and Associates was willing to do it for \$400.00 but has yet to hear back from Clark Co.
- Geo thermal permits. Town to enforce its permit requirement and monitor the county inspection process – especially when Town land is used access/storage and/or silt/water runoff is present.

### Building Standards and Compliance Checklist

- Information continuing to be compiled
- Updated PC procedures to be presented to all future building permit applicants

### Zoning Text Amendment

- PC to present items to be included in the text amendment process

### **SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkivian**

The Traffic Calming Committee met for a second time and produced a report with recommendations for the Mayor and Council. These recommendations are to be discussed at the October Council meeting. The recommendations include several straightforward actions within the town including pedestrian safety tips in the Bulletin, repainting crosswalks, clearing brush, and working with the church to alert parishioners about traffic issues. The report also includes long-term recommendations for addressing traffic issues on Route 124.

### **MAPLE LAKE – Carolyn Rapkivian**

Combination was changed at the beginning of the month. The committee met to plan management of the lake for next year. The lake was treated with blue dye to try to control the pond weed. Residents have been invited to comment on this approach. The committee will be evaluating its effectiveness.

### **WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkivian**

The Scope-Of-Work for the new platform and migration of content for the revised Town website was finalized and a draft contract is under development. Social media options were also reviewed.

### **ROADS & WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson**

The WSSC work on Maple Avenue is completed, however; restoration is still in progress. A new gate was installed on Center Street the Town Maintenance entrance. Portions of the old Deer Park Bridge were used in the project. Preparations have been made on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to assist the contractor in the delineating boundaries.

### **MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson**

Grass mowing season is winding down and Maintenance is preparing for leaf pickup. All leaf equipment has been serviced, rehabilitated and read for use.

Steve Werts continues to work on the organization of the shop. Members are encouraged to go see the improvements.

Work continues on the drainage issues at Woodward Park.

Steve participated in a meeting with US Lawns to coordinated and clarify areas for leaf pickup.

### **CONTRACTS – Greg Silber**

We've been working with residents about ruts alongside driveways caused by refuse pick-up trucks that are forced to turn around in driveways in the cul-de-sac on lower Ridge Road. The Town plans to pour a concrete apron at the foot of the driveway for 336 to 340 Ridge Road to prevent further damage and erosion. A letter from the Mayor was sent on 29 September informing these residents of the plans and timing for this work.

A meeting with U.S. Lawns was held to go over plans to ensure smooth leaf pick-up activities this fall.

### **RECREATION – Greg Silber**

Fall events include:

11 October, 6:00-10:00 -- BluestoberFest , at the Gazebo

12 October -- Film Society Starts

25 October, 2:30-4:30, McCathran Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Punkin' Carving Fest and Costume Parade

31 October, 6:00-8:00 – Trick or Treating

The Committee's next scheduled meeting is December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30.

### **PLAYGROUNDS – Greg Silber**

The Playground Committee has developed a draft set of cost estimates for Town Maintenance work this winter to improve water drainage in some areas to make them more accessible. At its September meeting, the Committee also continued to discuss possible modifications to the playground areas and locations of equipment.