

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS SEPTEMBER 2015

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Georgette Cole

Projects: There were no new projects.

Archives: Gail reported that she and Pat Patula were going to the State Archives in Annapolis on Thursday, August 20th to investigate the Town's options regarding the Record Management Plan. Gail has prepared a list of questions to ask pertaining to the advantages and disadvantages for municipalities, along with conditions for local archives. Pat submitted a draft of the Records Retention and Disposal Schedule for the HPC to review. This project is still in progress and moving towards complete organization. A full discussion with all Commission members, along with Pat Patula, is necessary and is planned for October.

Permit Reviews:

Procedure Revisions: Bob reported that he is in the process of preparing written documentation to present to the Town Council for their review. He will also prepare a checklist for HPC requirements to be included with new building permit applications to be reviewed at the September meeting.

Article IV Section 5 Projects: Applications the HPC will not need to review were discussed. A list of 5 items was provided in 2003 that the Commission felt unnecessary to review:

Fences and walls

Trellises and screens

Treehouses

Oil tanks and AC equipment

Shutters

In addition, "special structures" and temporary structures with a life span of less than two years would not be reviewed. Bob will modify the old list of exceptions to review at the next meeting.

SHADY GROVE CROSSING – Georgette Cole

When touring with the MC Parks Department we agreed it would be best to remove the fencing Toll Brothers installed around the trees on the north end of the meadow. They protect the trees from deer but are also a safe harbor for bittersweet and other weeds which are choking the trees. I will work with the Shady Grove HOA to contact the residents on the edge of the meadow to discuss the Parks/Grove cleanup effort. This is a winter (dormant vegetation) project.

WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Georgette Cole

Mayor McCathran, Meadow Liaison Georgette Cole, Park Manager David Quintanilla, and Forest Ecologist/Botanist, Carole Bergmann met to assess the status of the Meadow Park within the approved Operation and Use Plan. We know control of non-native invasive weeds is a multi-year effort, but it was encouraging to see the decreasing amounts of Mile-a-Minute (MAM), wisteria and bittersweet. The Parks Department recently cleared a large patch of MAM out of the northwest corner of the meadow. Bittersweet remains a problem along the northern edge of the meadow on the border with Shady Grove Crossing (see above). There are still many shoots of MAM and wisteria along the western border of the meadow next to Ridge Road. Sometime in the next few weeks the Parks Department will send in a mow/bush hog crew to clear problem areas along Ridge Road, primarily north of Oak Street. The annual native grass in this area has already seeded and will come back next year.

MAPLE LAKE – Alison Faupel.

The next Lake Committee meeting will be in February, date TBD.

Mayor McCathran is working with State Senator Nancy King to introduce legislation to exempt Washington Grove from County lake inspections..

David Harmon is stepping down as the Lifeguard coordinator. He will be hard to replace, but the Lake Committee is looking for someone to fill this important role. We are purchasing gift cards to thank the life guards for their wonderful service this summer. The Committee is considering increasing the starting salary next year from \$10 to \$11/hour.

The lake was treated for algae on 18 September, the last treatment for the year. We have contracted with NatureWorksCWA for algae treatment next year.

The lake combination was changed on 23 August. Please contact John Hutchinson for the updated code. Surveillance cameras are installed and operational, but we are unable to get replays from the third camera. Bud O’Conner is looking into the problem.

PLAYGROUNDS – Alison Faupel

Steve Werts has begun drainage project for the merry-go-round and horse swings area, and plans to undertake the surfacing for the merry-go-round. Materials and supplies were underestimated for these areas, so the swing area will need to be undertaken in the next fiscal year.

The Committee would like to purchase and install the special needs swing this month.

SAFETY – Alison Faupel

MC Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations responded to a request for a crosswalk across Washington Grove (WG) Lane at Daylily Lane. The County declined to install a marked crosswalk, but moved the street sign across the road for better visibility. The Traffic Safety Committee would like to reiterate its recommendation for better signage along WG Lane—including a pedestrian crossing sign at Daylily Lane and flashing pedestrian crossing sign at Maple Lake—and repainting the crosswalk on Grove Road.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION - Audrey Maskery

Two Tulip Poplar trees in danger of falling were removed from Maple Lake area by tree contractor.

MAINTENANCE - Audrey Maskery

Cleaned ditches; trimmed bushes; throughout Town and on West Woods side of Washington Grove Lane; removed wisteria in Wade Park.

Watered trees planted in last two – three years.

Cleaned and painted outside walls of maintenance shop.

Installed third camera at Maple Lake.

Roto-tilled Town Hall garden and cleaned out weeds.

Supervised contractor removing Mile-a-Minute in East Woods.

Started work on drainage project in playground area.

MEMORIALS - Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – John McClelland
Building Permits: 404 Grove Ave – Fence approved

Block 11 Survey: Due to private residence space limitations and the potential time and cost of fairly distributing, transferring, selling and deeding of Town owned land the PC decided to accept the boundaries as presented on the Block 11 survey. Access for all adjoined properties to a walkway leading to Grove Ave and vehicular parking off Miller Dr is clearly listed (although its width varies from 5’ to 3.1’). Encroachment by some property owners will require requests for removal with an allowance time frame of 60 – 90 days.

House Files: 34 homes are completed. An excel spread sheet is also being developed for future analysis and comparative purposes

Permanent Easements: The meets and bounds requirement for 409 5th Ave was received and has been presented to the Town attorney for final write up and ultimately TC approval

MCCATHRAN HALL – John McClelland
No report.

ROADS & WALKWAYS – Bud O’Connor
Nothing to report.

WEBSITE – Bud O’Connor
Marida Hines has nearly completed the new website design. Due to scheduling challenges, the reveal and review with the website committee will occur mid-October. The website release date should be set soon after.

RECREATION – Bud O’Connor
Our Recreation Committee did exceptional work to pull off another very successful Labor Day weekend extravaganza

WOODS GROUP – Greg Silber
The Woods Group met on Saturday 5 September (a change from an originally planned 31 August meeting) and discussed progress in removing invasive ‘mile-a-minute’ stands, and the Parkton Woodland Services draft forestry stewardship plan for the Town’s woods, among other things. Large swaths of ‘mile-a-minute’ have been removed thanks to quick action by several Group members in finding a contractor to do the work, and the capable work of the contractors themselves. Plans are to continue monitoring invasive plant overgrowth and may contract for additional removal work as needed. Group members reported on their initial review of the Parkton draft forestry report. The Group is compiling comments on the draft and expects to meet with the contractor to discuss the report.
The next meeting of the Woods Group is Monday 5 October, 7:30PM

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber
Nothing to report.