

2011 WASHINGTON GROVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

Reforestation in the town parks:

Ten new trees and eight shrubs were installed by Stadler Nursery in the past year under the supervision of the Forestry Committee. Residents who have a suggestion for a new tree should contact the Council member for Forestry and Beautification (name and contact information will be published in the May Bulletin and on the web site).

Gypsy Moth Spraying:

Egg case counts were done by the State in December 2010 and the levels are still low. We were not included in the MD spray program for 2011. Between the spraying program and the weather not being favorable for gypsy moth propagation, we have been told once again that the gypsy moth population will probably take several years to rebound. For this reason gypsy moth spraying has not been included in the FY 2012 budget.

Tree removals:

6 trees have been removed so far in the current fiscal year at a cost of \$8,300. However, we have additional trees that need work. On May 11 the Town Forester, Dan Landry, will be meeting with us to evaluate these trees and to advise us on a tree pruning program. We expect the latter to improve overall tree health and resident safety. As I did last year I have requested \$25,000 for this work in the new fiscal budget.

The Forestry Committee:

This Committee is currently co-chaired by Carol Uhlendorf and Audrey Maskery. Arbor Day 2011 was a joint effort with the Woods Group and offered volunteer opportunities both in the woods and at McCathran Hall. Forestry and Beautification developed plans for renovated landscaping at McCathran Hall this year. In the fall Steve Werts installed landscape timbers to keep soil from washing out of the planting beds toward the hall. This improves drainage around the Hall, protects the building shingles and improves growing conditions for the landscaping plants. The Oakleaf Hydrangea and Viburnum that were getting very large and growing into the Hall have been moved further away from it. These changes have been approved by the Maryland Historical Trust who holds the 1995 Deed of Easement on the Hall. They have also approved the addition of some low rocks on the south side of the hall to hold additional soil in place. We feel this will significantly improve the health and appearance of the landscaping on the Center Street side of the hall.

Trash pickup along Washington Grove Lane and Railroad Street continues with a dedicated group of residents ensuring that these town borders stay attractive. Please contact Audrey Maskery or Elly Briggs if you'd like to assist in this effort.

The Woods Preservation Project 2010-11:

This effort, chaired by Ann Briggs, continues their 5-year plan. The improved appearance of the East Woods along Grove Road headed toward McCauley and of the West Woods along Washington Grove Lane is very clear. Follow-up clearing of invasives is scheduled.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

Bob Evans ended his tenure as Chairman of the Planning Commission when he resigned in December 2010. This was shortly before his death in January 2011. His strength and outstanding leadership are sorely missed.

Eric Gleason was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Planning Commission. Steve Werts continues as the Commission's liaison with the Town's code enforcement officer. Samantha Beres reviews building permits. Two new members have been appointed by Mayor Anderson. In February Brenda Gumula became our new alternate and in April Peter Nagrod became the fourth member of the PC. Peter will be working with Sam on permit reviews. Peter and Brenda will review fence permits.

The Planning Commission continues to work on improving access to current and past building permit/projects. Online tracking/updates are still the goal.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

The major accomplishment in 2010-2011 was the retirement of the Town's Maintenance Supervisor for the past 24 years: Jim Fletcher. The Town said an appropriate thank you at a party and completed a significant search for the best candidate for the position that began July 6, 2010. After reviewing some 80 applicants, Steve Werts was selected and has done an admirable job during this past year.

The major accomplishments have been many:

Community garden area – this had become overgrown and was cleared of overgrown weeds and unwanted underbrush and cleaned up to return it to be part of Woodward Park;

McCathran Hall - insulation was installed under the floors of the main hallway

Maintenance Garage – the grounds were cleared of trash and rubbish, the bamboo removed and Mulch Alley was cleaned of waste.

Town equipment – the mowers and tractor were repaired and restored to be more workable and the leaf vacuum machines were modified to make the fall clean up more efficient. The tractor was used once for clearing of snow and the truck functioned to spread salt and sand.

New Barriers at critical sites within the Town were installed.

Drainage – ditches and swales were cleared and deepened along Woodward Park and the East Woods and other sited within the Town.

Lake Fence – the restoration of the west end of the lake fence was reclaimed and repaired where needed.

Maintenance Committee was formed to help guide the priorities for the Town and formulate budget requests.

Walkways were widened where undergrowth had intruded into the paths and unwanted seedlings had taken root were removed.

In addition, the regular mowing and maintenance functions for the recreation areas of the parks, Woodward Park soccer field, the public right-of-ways were cleared, and along the roadways, the Town's property was mowed throughout the season. The fall leaf collection was expedited by the restored TracVac machines.

This is in addition to working with the several committees of the Town: Lake, McCathran Hall, Recreation, Parks, Roads and Forestry and Beautification, each of which had several projects needing the attention of Steve Werts and his volunteer support workers.

A special point of thank you goes to those volunteers without whom the Town would not have been able to keep up the minimal maintenance work. Thank you to Bruce Rothrock, Terry Cox, Don Henninger, Bill Robertson and Charles Challstrom for the many hours of work to make the Town function and look well.

McCATHRAN HALL—Joe Clark

In addition to the insulation of the main hall floor, there were two other major improvements:

Landscaping – the bushes which were too close to the building were relocated so that the rain water could be contained and runoff better managed. Landscaping ties and stones were located beneath the

roof overhangs so that the rain could be better controlled. The other plantings and relocated shrubs were a pleasant addition this spring.

Furnace room – the steps were reconstructed, the door repaired and the sump pump relocated so that the moisture problems are eliminated.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

Members: The members of the HPC are Bob Booher, Chair, Margot Bohan, David Neumann, David Stopak, Mimi Styles. In April the HPC regretfully accepted the resignation of David Neumann. Gail Littlefield was appointed this month by the Mayor to complete David's term.

Construction Reviews: Over the past year the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) reviewed plans for 201 Maple Avenue, 315 Brown Street, 415 Grove Avenue, and 202 Ridge Road. After these were reviewed they were forwarded to the Planning Commission (PC).

Proposed Ordinance: The PC and the HPC presented the draft of the Ordinance to amend Article VII, Sections 3 and 4 for presentation at the Town Forum regarding mansionization. This was presented at a Town Meeting on November 17, 2010.

PC/HPC Work Sessions on Mansionization: The PC/HPC draft ordinance was reviewed. The 18 month time limit in Ordinance 2008-07; effective July 22, 2009 elapsed. The Building Coverage Standards for residential Zones reverted to those in place before July 22, 2009.

Amend Historic District: The members discussed amending the historic district to include the meadow. The HPC decided the County needed to be contacted to determine the process. Members agreed David Stopak to serve on the "Meadow Committee" so that he could be involved in the effort to make the meadow part of the Town of Washington Grove Historic District.

Building Permit Application Procedure: The Committee is developing a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) to make available on the Town web site to make the process more transparent. Work on this will continue.

Seminars: The HPC is sponsored half-day workshop on window repair and maintenance in McCathran Hall on May 7, 2011.

Archivist: Members discussed the need to hire a part-time archivist. The files are set up. The main tasks will be filing and entering data into the database. The goal is to eventually put the archive database with photos and documents online.

Welcoming New Residents: The HPC decided its main goal is to make people who move into houses that are "contributing structures" aware of the historic value and of their homes and some of the incentives that exist to maintain that historic character. The HPC decided to welcome new residents as a supplement to the efforts of the Woman's Club.

Rules of Procedure: Members read over the final draft of the "HPC Rules of Procedure," and discussed the material edited on "Demolition." The members voted unanimously to adopt the current draft and the Chair signed the document.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

The Recreation Committee pulled together a party on October 29, 2010 in recognition of our acquisition of the LOS field. Mayor Darrell Anderson and former Mayor John Compton gave the official toast. A great sunset was viewed during the party!

The Holiday Show was December 18, 2010 "A Grove Home Companion."

Other accomplishments and plans of the Committee include the following:

- Plans for the Town party after the Town Meeting were discussed. All is in good order.
- The Annual Fourth of July softball game is scheduled for Saturday, July 2, 2011. The Fourth of July activities were discussed.
- The Committee hosted of a photography class for children.
- Plans for Music Weekend were discussed. All is in good order.
- The Halloween Party is scheduled for October 29, 2011.
- The proposed FY 2012 budget was reviewed and approved.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS–Joli McCathran

Councilor Joe Clark, Maintenance Supervisor Steve Werts, and I met and assessed the condition of the safety borders surrounding the playground equipment. It was determined to repair, enhance and widen for compliance with industry safety standards.

The purchase of new picnic tables and materials for repair of exiting tables was planned. Supplies were purchased in conjunction with the Lake Committee. We assessed the condition of the fireplace and agreed to the necessary minor repairs and upgrade.

We assessed the existing barriers defining the parking areas from the playground areas. The need was recognized for upgrade. However, the budget for this would need reviewing before work progresses. The purchase of material will take place in the FY 2011 but some of the repair work will occur in the FY 2012. Supplies will be approximately \$4800.

There was discussion and consensus to purchase new picnic tables and materials for repair of exiting tables. Joe Clark agreed to place the order. This order is to include two tables for the Lake Committee.

MAYOR’S LEGACY FIELD COMMITTEE–Joli McCathran

Members:	Ernie Kawaski, Chair	Audrey Maskary
	Joli McCathran, Council Liaison	Greg Silber
	Jim Fletcher	David Stopak
	Keith Gillis	Dan Tutas
	Janet Lottero	Mayor, <i>ex officio</i>

The first meeting of this committee was April 14, 2011. The Mayor outlined his vision for the tasks of the committee. The main tasks are to act as a liaison between the Town and the Montgomery County Parks Department (MCPD) in developing the plans and completing final negotiations with MCPD.

On Monday, April 18, 2011, a few committee members met meet with representatives from LOS and MCPDC maintenance staff to walk the area. All plans developed for the field will be presented to the Mayor and Town Council.

WEBSITE

To Town continues to upgrade and update the Town website under the capable hands of Bill Saar. More content, both past and present has been added in the past year. Especially important has been the timely placement of upcoming events on the website. Residents are asked to check the website regularly to become more aware of Town activities (www.washingtongrovermd.org).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

The Town continues to have regular and productive interactions with our County and State governmental officials. Until his resignation this spring, Ted Kelly maintained contact with the Maryland Municipal League (MML) to find resources and information relevant to the Town. The Town supported MML's 2011 legislation asking the Governor to re-instate some of the State road funds that have been cut the past three years due to the building of the InterCounty Connector. MML was successful in having some funds provided to municipalities.

We continue to work with Gaithersburg and Montgomery County on a number of issues of importance to the Town.

MEMORIALS

There were no requests for memorials this year.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS— Bill Robertson

A bid of \$25,000.00 was accepted by the council from A.B. Veirs and Sons, Inc. which included the following:

- Milling and overlaying asphalt in varying locations for a total of 1666 square yards.
- Asphalt patching at the corner of Hickory and Oak for a total of 35 square yards.
- The removal and replacement of two speed bumps on Ridge Road.

This work was completed in November 2010.

Two 20 ton loads of gravel were purchased and spread on Grove Avenue and Center Street.

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Contractual services provided by the Town include:

Trash- Includes the weekly trash and recycling collection, two bulk materials pickups and weekly yard waste collection between March and November.

Leaf collection- Leaves are collected from the curbside between October and January and include a spring collection in April.

Snow removal- Snow removal and road clearance is performed on a will call basis.

All contract vendors have performed well with only minor glitches which were rectified after notification of a problem.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

We are fortunate to have had very few incidents this past year. Thank you to Keith Gillis for your thorough monitoring of the safety around town and to all the Block Captains.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Sylvie Favret

Hutch and the committee are doing a fabulous job as usual. This year new sand was spread around the beach, four geese were monitored and finally left the area, the floating algae was taken care of, the lake is aerated, Marida is helping us to recruit Life Guards. New picnic tables have been ordered. We are ready for the summer!

Thank you all for your involvement.