

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—April 2009

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

Forestry Committee met on April 6 and finalized plans for Arbor Day activities. The full schedule was posted in the Bulletin and on the web site.

Bruce Rothrock approached the Forestry Committee with a proposal to work on rejuvenating the azalea-rhododendron beds and improving the appearance of Morgan Park on the **west** side of Grove Road. The Committee and I support this proposal since it appears it can be accomplished with little or no impact on the wooded area near Railroad Street. I will bring a map and more details to the Council meeting for discussion.

Woods Group: The April round of invasives removal in the West Woods occurred on 4/16 and 17. Great progress was made, but another day worth of work remains. This will be scheduled later. The Cherry Ave trail project was started March 28 and a report on overall progress will come after the second work day which is part of the Arbor Day activities on April 25. Note: the volunteer turnout for the trails project today was excellent. Ann Briggs is very pleased with the amount of work accomplished. She will have pictures for upcoming the Town meeting.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS—Georgette Cole

Road work: We have bids to open for road repairs at the Council meeting.

Graveling Walkways: Jim Fletcher has been working on bids for graveling the walkways in the 'Circle' area. The same #8 bluestone will also be used to reinforce Center Street leading toward the maintenance shed. He will have information on this at the Council meeting.

Traffic Calming: The residents at 9 The Circle are concerned about excessive traffic speed on Grove Road. They feel the cut-through traffic headed south is the main culprit. They have suggested reinforcing a one-way system to slow drivers down, using the island next to the nearby homes. I have notified all of the neighbors in this area of the proposal and will try to speak to each of them this weekend. I will bring a map of the area and we should discuss whether this is an option we want to pursue. If we do, it would be possible to have Jim Fletcher use templates to make white arrows on the pavement at the north end of the island to indicate the desired traffic flow. This would be a low-cost, low-impact way to see if the idea affects traffic speed.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Charlie Challstrom

103 Brown Street – The Planning Commission received detailed drawings to confirm the corrective reconstruction for the connection to the new garage/addition. After extending the front roofline on the Brown Street side, the construction will comply with plans presented in evidence to the Board of Zoning Appeals and already approved by the Planning Commission with issuance of the original building permit.

Work session on Infill Development – The Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission held a joint work session to develop Town standards associated with infill

development so that homes and additions are built in a manner that prevents overcrowding and ensures adequate light, air, and access. Using examples from other jurisdictions, proposals are to be developed to be considered for introduction in a Town ordinance with a public hearing. A second joint work session is proposed for May 13.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Charlie Challstrom

Maryland Municipal League (MML) Amicus Update -- Susan Silber, attorney in Takoma Park, provided a very helpful report on legal issues in the Town’s legal case for a MML Board meeting in Gaithersburg. Susan participated in the preparation of the MML amicus brief. Susan discussed issues of the Town’s motion for reconsideration, and alerted the Board to expected appeals and extended process. Susan stated “Absent reconsideration, these issues are likely to come before the Court of Appeals again, and the Town would like to avoid additional litigation expenses.”

Bikeway Network Meeting – I participated in the Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance meeting on April 22 which reviewed details of the bikeway network in the Shady Grove area. Challenges associated with the ICC construction were particularly noted. All agreed that plans for the Shady Grove Metro area are not yet sufficiently friendly for pedestrians or bicycles.

MML Montgomery Chapter – I attended the Chapter meeting on April 16 in Takoma Park where the primary topic was a presentation by the WSSC Chief Financial Officer Thomas Traber on the challenges of the deteriorating water and sewer infrastructure. There was also a presentation on the legislative session by a member of the Governor’s staff. This was a joint meeting with the Prince Georges County Municipal Association, and we committed to convene more of these joint sessions in the future.

CONTRACTS—Kathie Evans

No report

WEB SITE—Kathie Evans

No report

MCCATHRAN HALL—Kathie Evans

No report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joe Clark

The HPC met with the Planning Commission to figure out appropriate ordinances for Town to effectively deal with the issue of mansionization. There will be a series of work sessions followed by a public hearing and hopefully, adoption of an ordinance by the Council. The Commission is also considering various means to promote a better understanding of the Town’s many historic structures and the importance of maintaining their original character, both to the community as a whole and the individual owners.

There were no applications for review presented.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Joe Clark

Two training meetings have been held/scheduled for the Neighborhood Watch program. These are sponsored by the Montgomery County Police Department and are a follow up to an earlier town meeting with Officer Tillery.

MEMORIALS—Joe Clark

In the past year, many people in the Grove have contributed to the purchase of a tree in memory of Susie Cox, a long time Grove resident. The formal dedication of the tree was held on April 25 at Wade Park.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

Cleanup Day: The annual cleanup was held on Sunday, April 12th. A large crowd of Grovers turned out to help prepare the lake for the coming summer. The lake was partially drained, allowing leaves and other detritus to be raked from the bottom of the shallows, for verges to be clipped, and for barley bails to be pulled for refreshing, etc. The volunteers did a very thorough job, fueled by a large box of Krispy Kremes.

We received one truckload of sand which is being used to replenish the near beach area. The far beach (on the far side of the island) is not being replenished this year.

Lake Combination: The combination lock on the 'inner' gate at the lake has been changed and residents are asked to contact John Hutchinson, the Town Office, or any Lake Committee member for the combination.

Lifeguards: Three of last summer's lifeguards are returning to work at the lake this year, and we have one additional newly-certified individual we are interviewing. We are continuing to advertise in the Bulletin, however, to ensure there will be enough lifeguards to cover absences. Marida Hines is heading up this effort.

Security: The Lake Committee advertised in the Town Bulletin for an adult interested in working as an intermittent security guard at the lake but received no response. Two retired people whose names were recommended to us are being contacted. If we are unsuccessful with this approach, we are also exploring the option of having one or more of the lifeguards double as a security guard if they want extra hours. Eric Selby is heading up this effort.

Geese: Once again, a pair of geese has nested on the island. They will prevent other geese from taking up residence so we are encouraging them to stay. The eggs will be oiled according to the Humane Society's protocol to prevent them from hatching. When done within the directed time frame, this is completely humane. Ann Phillips is heading up this effort.

Meeting: The next Lake Committee meeting is on Thursday May 14th at 7:30 at the Town Hall. We will be planning swim lessons, reviewing the Life Guard schedules, continuing to focus on security needs, and discussing improvements to ensure a great season.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

The Recreation Committee held a meeting on April 15 and discussed plans for upcoming events:

Music Weekend

- Dates: June 19, 20, and 21.
 - Friday night at the Gazebo: King Soul band with Tom Clifford, Memphis-style blues, pizza and beer
 - Saturday night at the Gazebo: Rock N' Roll Relics
 - Sunday morning at the Gazebo: Baroque Breakfast with Homewood Brass
- In the event of rain, all events in McCathran Hall

July 4: There will be no brunch or picnic this year, but post-award POPSICLES will return.

MAINTENANCE—John Compton

See forwarded list.

PARKS AND RECREATION—John Compton

No report.