

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—August 2009

CONTRACTS – Charlie Challstrom

Trash/Recycling Contracts – No reports of missed pickups. After pickups each week, I move Sarah Steel's recycling bin back to her lowest level to help with her access.

Street Light Update – We continue to explore a possible demonstration of new technology for Washington Grove street lights. I received a response from Mike Lizza, Pepco's "Street Light Czar" affirming that "Pepco is now committed to move ahead with the latest technology." Ten Town representatives met Mike and other Pepco employees on August 17 for a night-time visit to Pepco's Gaither Road facility to view three LED examples and one induction-type street light. The four different examples were all much taller (over 30 feet) than target height for Washington Grove (18-20 feet), and higher intensity than planned for Washington Grove. I am encouraged by information from Deborah "Smitty" Smith on Kim Lighting's WARP9[®] LED fixtures. I hope we might be able to view an example of: WARP9[®] LED 3500K (bright white, warmer) Type II (narrow street distribution) 88-watt (small 60 LEDs) fixture with the non-yellowing Lexan[®] lens. We need to resolve: 1) verification that such a fixture could be mounted on Pepco's existing wooden poles; 2) Town preference for LED, induction, or other fixture options; 3) costs of conversion; and 4) maintenance responsibilities and costs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Charlie Challstrom

Gaithersburg West Master Plan – Town testimony has been drafted for the County Council Public Hearing (September 15, 7:00 p.m.) regarding the Planning Board Draft of the Gaithersburg West Master Plan. The Town submitted letter testimony in March to Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson for this same Master Plan at its earlier stage of review. This latest draft testimony adds specific concerns for "Smart Growth" and the recently unveiled proposal to relocate County facilities to Casey 6 and Parcel 743 (5.04 acres) adjacent to Town residents.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Sylvie Favret

Rules and Procedures: David Neumann indicated that it is more about formalizing what the HPC does.

Town permit review procedure revisions: Margot Bohan downloaded the application from the town website and attempted to complete it. Currently we have a combination of Planning Commission, HPC and Montgomery County applications in one confusing document which lacks clarity. A good part of the meeting was spent discussing this issue. It was decided to check if Takoma Park has a different application than the Montgomery County one. Margot will start drafting a new document since the existing application is confusing for some. A list of what people need to bring for an early consult needs also to be created.

McCATHRAN HALL – Sylvie Favret

No activity this month.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION – Georgette Cole

Our plans for test reforestation enclosures in the East and West Woods are coming together. Woods Committee members Joli McCathran, Keith Gillis and Leigh Partington have identified 2 areas in the East Woods and One in the West Woods that are good candidates. They are measuring and staking

them this weekend. The locations we tentatively decided on are ones where the land is fairly clear, somewhat sunny and near walking paths so it's easier to keep an eye on them.

I have an estimate of \$2,657 for the materials needed for two, 30x100 foot enclosures from Trident Corporation (DeerBusters.com) in Frederick, MD. These enclosures are high quality and rated to last 15-20 years. Our cost will be different depending on the size of the enclosures we finally decide on. I will be getting an estimate for installation once we have determined the size and location of our enclosures. We plan to install a combination of young trees, seedlings and acorns. We plan to get trees from the DNR Tree-mendous program which can be delivered in late Oct/early Nov at which time they are pretty much dormant. If we wish, additional trees are available in the spring from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery.

I estimate that our enclosures will need to survive at least 10 years. Oaks, which are an important object for us, are VERY slow growers. Oaks coming up from acorns may need more than 10 years. I don't believe it is realistic to water in the forest preserves. I expect to lose about 10% of what we plant per year for the first 4-5 years. At about 5-7 years we will need to go in and thin out weaker growth. Between 10-15 years we will hope to be fortunate enough to selectively leave only the best specimens.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on August 5.

A fence permit for 407 Fifth Avenue was denied due to lack of a critical boundary marker. The resident was advised to get a new boundary survey.

The owner of 115 Chestnut Avenue sought guidance from the PC on permit, if needed, for the deck to be built on the Chestnut Road side of her house. A permit is needed for this less-than-3-foot above grade structure only if footers are placed, which then necessitates a County permit we would need to sign off on.

The owner of 108 Maple Ave asked for guidance on a deck and fence proposal. A fence permit application was put in and approved.

Since the PC meeting plans have been received from Ralph Hurst for the roof modifications at 103 Brown Street. I believe John McClelland will be sending this to the Mayor with a recommendation that a time limit be set and the work done as quickly as possible.

PC/HPC Work Sessions: The fifth work session was held on July 29 and a sixth is planned for August 26.

LAKE COMMITTEE – Marida Hines

All is well and there is nothing to report

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Marida Hines

Nothing to report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

MML – No development was unable to attend the September 8 Annapolis meeting with Governor. I have made initial contact to identify other town/municipalities recommendation for playground equipment and ground cover i.e. Glen echo rubber cover.

WEB SITE – Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

No new developments or additions. Comments via email and on listserv continue to compliment the timeliness of postings from Mayor and Council Notes. Bill Saar and Kathy Lehman continue to work very well in the timely delivery and immediate posting of information. Now that we have insured there are no longer apparent “worm/virus” threats via the town site, we will proceed with email sign up for “email blast” for time sensitive and emergency information.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS – Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Jim Fletcher recommended mulching in early fall to prepare for winter and we are in the process of coordinating a volunteer effort for October 10, there are already approximately five volunteers.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

See forwarded list from Jim Fletcher.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT – Joe Clark

Nothing to report. I would like to thank Officer Tillery for her timely updates on safety issues regarding our area. She monitors the Yahoo group and often sends information to address questions raised.

MEMORIALS – Joe Clark

Nothing to report