

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—May-June 2010

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract Update:

The annual snow removal contract expired on April 15, 2010. The Town must issue invitations for bids in September or October. I have asked that it be placed on the calendar in mid September. Charlie Challstrom's notes mention that we should consider a renewable contract based on acceptable performance as is the case with the leaf collection contract.

Trash Contract:

I received phone calls and website generated emails from Susan Rattan of 8300 Boundary Street regarding missed trash and recycling pickups on June 10th and June 17th. The contractor was notified and pickups were made the next day. The contract contains a provision for liquidated damages amounting to \$50 per missed dwelling per day. I decided not to invoke that provision for the two missed pickups but had decided that it would be deducted if I received another complaint. There were no calls or emails on the 24th.

FEMA Disaster Aid Update:

I attended the Applicant's Briefing and submitted a Request for Public Assistance on June 21st for FEMA disaster declaration DR-1910-MD. This declaration covers the February 5-11, 2010 snow storm. I have tentatively scheduled a meeting on Thursday July 1st at 10 am with Ricky Turley the FEMA Public Assistance Coordinator. The meeting schedule will be confirmed upon the return of Mary Challstrom. The meeting with Mr. Turley will be to provide proof of expenditures for snow plowing/removal and for debris removal.

McCATHRAN HALL—Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

The Forestry and Beautification Committee will be meeting Monday morning to discuss plans to review with the Steve Werts.

Three hazard trees were removed in Howard Park near the town hall this month and a day of stump grinding was done in the town parks. Our total tree removal cost for the closing fiscal year was \$19,605. I will discuss the stump grinding program with Steve. The goal is to get the ground-up areas flattened fairly quickly (once the mulch has aged) then add grass seed so it can be part of the regular mowing program. Over time we should be able to eliminate most of the weedy clumps in our town parks.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on June 2.

Public appearances: 115 Washington Grove Lane had a query regarding fences. She has a boundary survey and will turn in a permit application.

Building Permits: 358 Ridge Road: addition of accessory building (studio) in rear yard. Permit was complete and approved.

313 Brown Street: There have been some questions about the set back on one side of the addition. Since the permit was approved before the boundary survey was required it was difficult to accurately determine the degree of potential non-compliance. Therefore the building was deemed to have passed inspection. This situation is one that the boundary surveys is designed to prevent.

114 Ridge Road: This property had a boundary survey. However, at time of inspection by Larry Plummer, one of the corner markers could not be found. The inspection was passed, but the PC intends to discuss/clarify this. In the future I believe that the code inspector will be told that if the markers are not present the building wall check should not be passed.

The PC discussed propane tanks briefly (safety and ordinances) and Jane Segal volunteered to do research on the subject for future discussion.

The PC would like for the Town Permit application packet to be placed on the town web site. This and the new Permit tracking spreadsheet will be prepared for Marida Hines and Bill Saar to take a look at. Bill has already put the PDF of the forum slides on the web site although the link is not terribly obvious.

PC/HPC Work Sessions: The Town Forum on mansionization was on June 16. The presentation went well and the town feedback was most helpful. David Neumann has written up the comments for the meeting and is assembling the ones received at mcmansions2010@comcast.net.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

The Lake Committee met on Thursday June 17th.

On Wednesday June 16, the lake opened full time. So far there have been no major issues.

The lake was treated for algae and pondweed on June 17 and was safe for swimming by the next day.

The next meeting is scheduled for mid-July. New Town Maintenance Supervisor Steve Werts will be in attendance to learn about lake area maintenance needs and discuss options.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

The Recreation Committee staged a very successful Music Weekend despite record high temperatures.

WEBSITE—Marida Hines

I met with Bill Saar, who is very knowledgeable about web technologies and is our institutional historian on things Web. He had some good ideas on what he would like to see done and indicated that he would be happy to revise the website if someone else coordinated the effort. I created a simple questionnaire requesting feedback on what the committees would like to see change on the website. I forwarded the questionnaire to the other councilmembers to circulate to their committee heads but have not heard anything back from anyone but Georgette. I will be calling committee heads personally to get some input, after which I will put out a call on the listserv for ideas. Simple revisions will be simply communicated to Bill. If there are recommendations for more complex revisions, however, I will prepare a report for discussion in the council before moving forward.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

See Maintenance Report in separate file.

Jim Fletcher retires on June 29, 2010 after 24 years with the Town. The new supervisor will be Mr. Steve Werts who will begin on July 6, 2010. It is with much gratitude and affection that we say good bye to Jim Fletcher and much excitement and promise that we welcome Steve Werts.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS—Joe Clark

Several areas have been identified for new gravel and it should be delivered and spread in mid July, after the new Maintenance Supervisor has been in the job.

Also, several areas of street repair and/or replacement have been identified. This will be done sometime in the early fall.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Sylvie Favret

The HPC reviewed the application for an accessory building and a studio for John Tomlin.

The Mansionization PowerPoint was reviewed and edited. Also, there was a discussion about a contact who could give an educational presentation about mansionization.

The committee finalized the welcome packet for the new family on Brown Street.

Mimi Styles provided the completed bronze award plaque for the Renovation of the Year which Bob Booher will deliver this weekend.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

No major incidents this month.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

No report

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

At the June 26 Council meeting will be presenting Park Table options available for July 4 install as well as approval on spending for tennis court fence mending and accessible picnic table, benches. Plus putting forth an idea to work toward the private and donation fund-raising and installation of adult and senior focused exercise/play apparatus as is being installed in parks in the UK, Tokyo and Canada. (pictures were sent in an email)

MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

As this is a new Town Council-related responsibility I will be involved with for the coming year, I will look to fellow Town Council members to detail past process and existing procedure as well as share some general concepts for discussion to provide family members or friends of townspeople the opportunity to celebrate the lives and influences that all of our town residents, past and present, bring to our unique community through lasting and recognized memorial options that may already be existing or can be developed and recommended for Town Council approval.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE—Mayor's Initiative

Town residents continue to participate in Neighbor Corp programs. On June 26, a community potluck was held at the Women's Club. More than 40 Washington Grove residents and people from surrounding communities spent a very hot day talking and touring the Grove. Tim Warner, Ike Leggett's representative to the Gaithersburg Neighbor Corp, attended and discussed an emerging program for community gardens that will be implemented in July. The first garden will be placed in the Emory Grove area.

The potluck was an opportunity to meet our neighbors and to distribute information about Neighbor Corp, with the hope of recruiting new members from Washington Grove.