

## **TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—August 2010**

### **FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole**

Shady Grove Crossing Landscape Plan: Darrell, John Tomlin, Charlie Challstrom and I have collaborated on a letter laying out discussion points for our meeting with Jeff Driscoll and Craig Clark (Toll Brothers) on August 30, 7:30pm. It will go out Monday August 23 and I will bring copies of the letter to the Council meeting.

#### F&B Committee recommendations for the Community Gardens Project:

The former Community Gardens have been in a state of neglect for several years. Community use has ceased as deer foraging has increased and sunlight decreased. Several rounds of proposals have been discussed for the repurposing of this area.

The Forestry and Beautification Committee has reviewed several options and are in favor of returning the area to the grassed extension of Woodward Park that it was before the Community Gardens were established albeit with a larger number of trees. We favor this plan because we feel it will

- 1) Best preserve the open park-like feel of Woodward Park that is particularly desirable in this high visibility area adjacent to Grove Road.
- 2) Limit the continuing spread of invasive non-native species like English ivy and bush honeysuckle and of native, invasive species like poison ivy.
- 3) Limit the tendency we see in other part of town where overgrown areas have encouraged the dumping of yard waste, construction materials and other trash.
- 4) Establish an attractive area for residents to view and walk while being easy to maintain.

We propose to retain the larger, better quality trees now surrounding the existing fenced area and a selection of the volunteer trees now inside the fence. The fence materials, old garden shed, former garden materials and remaining vegetation will be removed by the maintenance staff with assistance from Forestry and Beautification volunteers. Additional volunteers may be needed to accomplish the final stages of cleanup. Grass seeding can then be done in late fall.

We would like to add a few additional trees on the garden side facing 108 Pine Avenue where the existing tree cover is very light.

I suggest that this proposal be published in the September Bulletin and that resident comments be solicited. It should be an agenda item at the first Council meeting in September.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole**

The Planning Commission met on August 4.

#### Public Appearances/building permits:

505 Brown Street came for a fence permit (reviewed by Eric Gleason). They wish to fence their backyard for their dog; permit approved.

415 Grove Avenue. The new owner came to ask for guidance on his options to bring the property into compliance with our current ordinances. The letter he has received from the Mayor suggested adding a connecting space to make the accessory building into a part of the main residence or to lower the roof to the 20-foot maximum permitted for an accessory building.

Our discussion of Montgomery County shed guidelines led to asking Charlie Challstrom to research whether the guidelines were zoning ordinances (do not apply to WG) or Chapter 8 building code which is adopted in our Article XIII. Much of the PC discussion related to the safety aspects of the County guidelines as several members felt that the requirements were prudent. Charlie's research shows that the shed guidelines are indeed building code. Kathy Lehman now has copies of the shed guidelines and will give them to any applicant submitting a shed permit application.

PC/HPC Work Sessions: The FAR/Max Size sub-group met Aug 12 and 20 and has formulated conclusions to bring to the next joint session on August 25.

### **CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson**

Nothing to report.

### **McCATHRAN HALL—Bill Robertson**

Nothing to report.

### **LAKE COMMITTEE—Marida Hines**

The super hot weather seems to be an excellent breeding climate for the pond weed, which grew rapidly and became thick toward the end of July, especially in the less-used parts of the lake. After discussions with John Mudre, it seemed very possible we could have "Chara," a weed-like plant, which is described as follows:

- Yellow or grayish-green in color with a gritty/bristly texture and a musky odor
- Leaf-like structures at fairly uniform intervals whorled about the stem
- May cover the entire bottom of the pond and are considered in most cases to be beneficial promoting water clarity, enhanced fish habitat, bottom sediment stabilization, and plant population stabilization by crowding out less desired species.
- For an image go to [http://www.google.com/images?q=chara+algae&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&rlz=1I7GGLJ\\_en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=uZtMTK6ADsP-8AaUtdEz&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CDIQsAQwAw&biw=1296&bih=486](http://www.google.com/images?q=chara+algae&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&oe=UTF-8&rlz=1I7GGLJ_en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=uZtMTK6ADsP-8AaUtdEz&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CDIQsAQwAw&biw=1296&bih=486)

On Friday, July 30, the lake was treated with 1 gallon of Cutrine. Typically, this involves the following:

- The lake drainage valve is opened about an hour or 2 ahead of treatment
- The pump is usually turned off for 24 hours after the application.
- It should not be too windy during or right after the application.
- There should be a period of a day or two of sunny weather after the application for it to work effectively.

The lake is scheduled to be treated again on August 23rd.

The following notice was put in the August Bulletin:

- The combination lock has been changed at the lake. To get the new number, please call the Town office, myself, or anyone on the Lake Committee. PLEASE DO NOT pass out the new number to non-Grovers, or children that cannot be trusted to protect this 'secret/private' number. Thank you for your cooperation.

- In response to several requests, we are experimenting with combination locks with more readable numbers that can be more easily read, but have not yet found any satisfactory replacements. If you have any suggestions, please contact John Hutchinson or Bruce Rothrock.

There have been a few complaints about the Lake Guards being less attentive than they should be. When these complaints are received, Marida Hines and Eric Selby of the Lake Committee speak with both parties involved to get both sides of the story. Usually, the perception of what happened is different, and it may take some digging to determine if an issue is serious enough to require more attention. Guards are reminded that, despite the difficulty in remaining alert while sitting for hours in a quiet, hot place, it is their responsibility to do so. Parents need to be reminded that it is their responsibility to keep a strict watch over their children at all times.

On a more positive note, Marida received a call from Terri Strother, who wanted to commend the professionalism of Svyeta Good. After her daughter slipped and injured her leg, Terri was inclined to let it go and assumed the cool water would make her daughter's pain go away. Svyeta examined the leg and advised Terri to take the child to a doctor right away. With some reluctance, Terri did, and learned that the leg was broken. Kudos to Svyeta for her professionalism and quick action.

A Lake Committee member who patrols the Lake daily in the mornings reported that two areas of fence needed repair, in particular a large hole where a barbed wire and stick patch had been removed, and another area where the fence was pulled down. A request was sent to Steve Werts, who repaired the holes.

The week of August 16, a lake user reported that the lock had disappeared, probably stolen. Steve Werts replaced it with a lock he had on hand. This lock has much more visible numbers, which addresses repeated complaints about the difficulty reading the numbers on the old lock. The lake combination has not changed.

The next Lake Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 25th (7:30 PM) at McCathran Hall.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE—Marida Hines**

- The Recreation Committee staged another fantastic 4th of July. This year the Grove returned to traditions with the re-addition of a softball game. Despite record heat, the game was a great success. A report on the softball game will be posted on the website.
- The Recreation Committee is in full swing for staging the 2010 Labor Day festivities. Craig English has once again taken the staging of the games in hand. For the 29th year in a row, potter Birgit Henninger is once again providing the "Super Grove" 2010 trophy mug and medal to be awarded to the contestant with the most Grove spirit, as well as 120 medals for the children.
- Preparations for the Octoberfest are underway and I will have more to report in the next Council Report.

The July 21 Recreation Meeting was cancelled. The Recreation Committee will meet again on Sept 15.

### **WEBSITE—Marida Hines**

All is well and nothing to report.

## **MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark**

Steve Werts, the Town's Public Works and Maintenance supervisor, quickly responded to clear Grove Avenue of a fallen tree during the first storm, and assisted other residents during the second storm. Following the storms, a significant amount of time was spent cleaning up the damage around town.

Considerable time was spent mowing the parks and walkways as the rain storms have not allowed for the "normal" August dry spell and the consequent lack of growth of the grass.

The emergency lights and sprinkler system maintenance were checked as part of the monthly checklist for McCathran Hall. The Lake was checked for algae and continues to be monitored.

There has been a significant effort to maintain the Town's equipment. In addition, with all the rain, there has been more of an opportunity to work on cleaning out the shop and getting rid of unnecessary material.

One of the goals for this year is to create a more tidy and efficient use of the garage. Clearing an area along Center Ave where dirt, gravel and sand could be stored and disposing of some of the debris on the east side of the avenue should make the entire area better for town use.

Of note this month has been the refurbishing of the backstop located by the nursery and the end of the park road. The old wire was removed and new coated black wire was added.

This month, Pine Ave was cleared so there is a clear line of sight exists from the tennis courts to Brown Street.

Thanks to Terry Cox and Bruce Rothrock for their volunteer hours assisting Steve.

## **Community Garden**

With the help of the Forestry/Beautification Committee, this area along the west side of Woodward Park needs to be reworked so that it creates a smooth transition to the park and can be maintained in a more manageable way.

## **ROADS AND WALKWAYS—Joe Clark**

The assessment of both drainage and street repairs has resulted in a list of priorities for work to be accomplished this fall and winter. See the list below.

### **Projects for Maintenance for Fall/Winter 2010.**

#### **Street Repairs** (not in order)

1. Chestnut from Center St. to Oak.... Mill surface. Continue going up Center to the entrance to McCathran Hall on Center Street.
2. Grove Road at the divide.
3. Grove Road and Brown Street intersection, from the white stripes, point to point.
4. Oak and Hickory – replace the sinking drain pipe running under Hickory.

Future street projects –

1. Lower Ridge Road
2. Center Street between Ridge Road and the park

3. Chestnut Road from McCauley to in front of Anderson/Hurst homes
4. Brown Street from Maple Road to Maple Ave
5. Chestnut Road and Oak intersection where tree roots have buckled the pavement

### **Projects for Graveling**

1. Around the maintenance shed and covering the area behind the garage.
2. Parking for McCathran Hall – Center Street and Chestnut Road.

Future -

3. Road on side of Woodward Park.
4. Lake parking.

### **Drainage Projects for 2010-11**

- In the area of Morgan park, Pine/Brown/Railroad - dig a “dry well” to eliminate the standing water.
- Maple Road, @ Kelly/Vogan/DuBois side of road
- Woodward Park – lower the swale along the east side of the park.
- Ravine off of Grove Road @ Newman’s – remove the soil that has begun to fill in this ravine.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Sylvie Favret**

The HPC discussed the revisions to the Rules of Procedure. David Neumann had offered to forward via email what he has as the current version reviewed and adopted in draft form at the February meeting. The other members reviewed this version with the intent of adopting the final version.

Also discussed was John McClelland's idea to revise the review procedure to place the HPC review earlier, before the application for the permit is filed. This would place the HPC input much earlier in the design where it works better, and remove the HPC from the final building permit process. It has many advantages that Bob Booher will describe in details in his report.

No project was submitted for review.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret**

Nothing to report.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca**

No Report

### **PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca**

No Report

### **MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca**

No Report