

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—October 2010

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

The Forestry Committee met Monday October 18. Among the items discussed were fall tree planting, protections for our younger trees from deer rubbing, and McCathran Hall landscaping. In terms of tree planting for the spring we have some good news financially. I asked Dan Landry if we could get any money from Pepco for tree replacements after the Washington Gove Lane trees are removed. He said they will be working on a new voucher program this winter and we should be able to get voucher of about \$150-\$200 per tree to use at a contractor like Stadler. I will contact him in early March to get details on how to participate in this program.

Forestry also reviewed our long-standing opinion on the LOS maintenance. The Forestry Committee would like to see some of the volunteer trees in the LOS preserved in the mowing plan if possible and also strongly recommend that more trees be planted in/along the tree line between the LOS and the lower field. The LOS was referred to in its dedication as a means of preserving the historic character of Washington Grove. We believe that preservation will be greatly improved by the additional buffering more trees would provide between the LOS and the lower field/ICC.

The Community Gardens Project: The majority of the CG clearing is being finished this week. The new location for two small oak saplings has been marked and the trees will be relocated by Ace Tree Movers at the end of October/beginning of November. Ace will also move two oakleaf hydrangeas and two viburnums further away from McCathran Hall. The new spacing will allow for better drainage arrangements next the Hall with a view toward preserving the shingles.

Piedmont Crossing: Work continues in the Toll area next to Ridge Road. I have spoken to Mr. Driscoll about the area between the current Toll fence and Ridge. He explained that MNCPPCC will not let them do clearing of brush until after the storm water management ponds are completed. Once that is done and the greater site clearing and grading begins Toll contractors will start cleaning up the brush and wood that has now accumulated in the areas on both sides of the Toll fencing. A resident at 358 Ridge Road was upset by contractors working before the mandated 7AM start time and has registered a complaint with the County. Mr. Driscoll says that such work violates their contractor agreements and will not happen again.

I have arranged to meet with Toll in the early spring to discuss the work that will be done between the current fence and the edge of Ridge Road. We will discuss trees to save and the new plant material going in. I have made a rough map of the area with an eye toward noting/markings trees (especially Town trees) that are in good shape and ought to be preserved.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on October 6. Public Appearances/Building Permits:

352 Ridge Road: Fence permit. The PC would like to find the exact wording of the Forest Conservation Easement that applies to this property. We have not been successful so far. The permit was conditionally approved subject to the owner's ability to demonstrate that it conforms to the Forest Conservation Easement and the verification of his boundary survey.

415 Grove Avenue: The plan submitted by Mr. Williams lowers the roof to 20 foot from 1 inch below the level of the slab foundation. No details of the grading were supplied. The plan will go to HPC for review then come again to the PC on Nov 3.

110 Grove Avenue: the HPC review of the application was read (it notes that it is a shame to be enclosing a porch) and the permit was approved with a reminder of the need for a copy of the final MC permit once it's issued.

PC/HPC Work Sessions: The FAR/Max Size sub-group met October 15. We agreed on a formula to use for setting maximum building size and possible language for an ordinance embodying it. We will review this at the joint meeting on Oct 27 and decide what the two subgroups will present at a Town Forum on November 17 (tentative schedule).

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

Due to a few rainy days, Mr. Werts spent much time cleaning and reorganizing the shop both inside and outside.

Repaired one of the riding lawn mowers - replaced parts and refurbished the deck and blades. Each week there was mowing of the fields, walkways and street right of ways.

Work continued in cleaning up the Town Garden area (total of 3.5 days) with 4 trips to the transfer station (a total of 13).

McCathran Hall – repairs to the roof, fixing a leak and repairing one of the fans was completed. The gutters were cleaned.

Woods – cut up a tree that had fallen on the walking path in the West Woods

Gravel was spread at the shop, the tennis court parking area, and at the McCathran Hall parking area.

Several stop signs and walkway signs were straightened and repaired.

Meetings were held with council members, the Maintenance Committee and with various contractors for issues relating to McCathran Hall, trees that had to be taken down and in preparation for the bid for street repairs.

The Maintenance Committee - consisting of David Neumann, Kathie Evans, Bruce Rothrock, Kristin Perry, Steve Werts, Audrey Maskery and myself met for the purposes of reviewing winter projects for the Town, reviewing the budget and learning about the various parts of the equipment owned by the Town. Several people commented on the improvements as well as parts of the Town which could have more attention paid to them.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS—Joe Clark

Bids have been solicited for the Town roads which have been identified as most in need of repair. Specific roads are Chestnut Road from Oak Street to near the Grove

Bids have been solicited for the Town roads which have been identified as most in need of repair. Specific roads are Chestnut Road from Oak Street to near the Grove Avenue walkway; Grove Road where there is a split by the two rail fence; Hickory Road and Oak Street where the drainage pipe appears to be failing; and the intersection of Grove Road and Brown Street. The bids will be opened at the Council meeting on October 25th.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

The HPC reviewed the preliminary construction plans for 315 Brown Street with owner Liz Robertson. The HPC recommended some clarifications of terms used in the construction drawings. The HPC will complete a review of the plans for the Planning Commission.

The HPC reviewed the construction plans for 415 Grove Avenue presented by Kent Williams the property owner. The proposal would lower the roof line 1’4” as required to bring the accessory building into compliance with Town ordinances. The HPC will complete a review of the plans for the Planning Commission.

The HPC discussed the draft ordinance to amend Article VII, Sections 3 and 4.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

I contacted Committee Chair Missy Yachup to let her know I am the new Council liaison for the Recreation Committee. Their next meeting is December 15, 2010

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

McCATHRAN HALL—Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

Nothing to report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

I unable to attend the monthly MML which was held in Gaithersburg- Mary Challstrom was there and shared some pertinent information regarding ruling tides to stormwater storage and conveyance facilities.

PLAYGROUNDS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Nothing to report.

MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Nothing to report.

No Councilor assigned until November—No report:

MAPLE LAKE

WEBSITE