

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—November 2010

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

Darrell Anderson (Mayor), Audrey Maskery (Chair of Forestry and Beautification), Joli McCathran (Woods Group and Town Council) and I (Forestry and Beautification Council Liaison) met with 5 members of the MNCPPC Parks and Planning staff to discuss maintenance of the meadow we often refer to as the LOS. We walked the field boundaries and considered invasives removal, possible mowing schedule, preservation of existing native trees and shrubs, planting of additional trees and shrubs (largely with a view to thickening the tree line between the upper and lower field), location of the proposed bikeway from the Shady Grove Metro to the Washington Grove MARC station, possible signage, possible fenced Community Garden (established and administered by P&P), and the need for community “buy-in” that P&P wishes to foster. We will work to come up with a set of parameters both sides are comfortable with, then P&P will make a presentation to the Town to inform residents, and if residents favor some of the optional ideas (like a community garden).

Reforestation (Fall 2010): A Nellie Stevens Holly, Sweet Bay magnolia and Bakeri Blue Spruce were installed by Stadler in early November. In lieu of removing old plants and then installing new ones, Ace Tree Movers moved existing 6 trees/shrubs in the old community garden area and in sites adjacent to McCathran Hall. The latter will enable a drainage project to protect the wood shingles of the Hall. Plans are now being developed for spring planting.

Piedmont Crossing: The clearing of forest across from lower Ridge Road was done in about 2 days. The difference is dramatic. The proximity of the ICC is very apparent and the on-going work is cleaning up the debris and doing the grading is noisy and depressing. I recommend that all town residents be encouraged to visit the lower Ridge area during this process so they can appreciate the huge difference this is making. I have also had feedback from many residents on this side of town as to the increased noise from I-370 and Shady Grove Road now that more trees have been removed. The new plantings along lower Ridge will help but will not happen until spring and then take several years to fill in.

An additional fourteen trees have been moved into the holding area near the *Nyssa sylvatica*. These trees will be used in the reforestation of lower Ridge Road. Since they are native species and already adapted to the soil and climate, they will be some of the best replacements Toll could use in the reforestation of this area.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on November 3.

Since I was not present (on vacation) for this meeting I have less than usual to report. I understand from Kathy Lehman that three building permits were reviewed. A fence permit for Brown Street (Evans) was approved. 415 Grove Avenue (Williams) and Brown Street (Robertson) were discussed.

PC/HPC: The joint PC/HPC met October 27 and November 10 (also while I was on vacation). They prepared a power point presentation for the second Town Forum on November 17. Bob Booher very graciously agreed to handle the presentation. Attendance was not as strong as we hoped with about 8 attendees who were not PC or HPC members. Bob presented a summary of the ideas we've been discussing for controlling mansionization and the draft ordinance Charlie had prepared for a good start to the process. Response was fairly favorable, but I think we may

not get a truly strong turnout until a real ordinance is under consideration and residents figure out how it will affect them and their immediate neighbors.

The PC will take this up again after Thanksgiving and more joint meetings are planned for December.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

In addition to cutting the grass, vacuuming leaves, picking up trash, maintaining the walkways, , time was spent working on McCathran Hall – fixing the roof leak, the fan, met with Guardian Fire Alarm representative about the sprinkler system and moved several bushes away from the roof drip line in preparation for a more efficient way to slow off the water runoff. Another motion detector was installed on the Center Street side near the lower council room entrance.

Work continues on the Community Garden area and cleaning it up. Loading a dumpster, picking up the remains of the shed and assorted trash. Dug tree stumps up at both the garden and McCathran Hall. The use of the track hoe (borrowed) was very helpful in the restoration of the Community Garden to being an extension of Woodward Park.

Several meetings were held with the appropriate Council representatives for Lake, Woods, McCathran Hall, and streets and walkways.

In looking at more efficient equipment for the Town, a demonstration was done of a new lawnmower which would significantly decrease the amount of time needed for mowing the field, parks, lake and walkways. Called a “zero turn” mower, it is more efficient and would decrease the amount of time mowing by 20%-30%.

Made repairs and alternations to both the JD tractor and the JD mowers.

Installed new barriers on Maple Road and Grove Road and repaired another barrier on McCauley Street which had been hit by a car.

Removed the aerators at the lake, cleaned and stored the equipment for the winter.

Checked the fence entrance for deer along the work of Toll Brothers on the lower end of Ridge Road. This area is continued to be monitored by Steve Werts so that the Town’s concerns are being addressed.

Cleaned the drainage ditch on the edge of Woodward Park.

During the times of rain, much work in the Town Garage on maintaining and servicing the equipment the town owns. Cleaning out the storage areas, preparing for winter and repairing, modifying and restoring machinery and equipment was accomplished. The Town now has an operable leaf vacuum and the mowers are operable.

Winter projects list – Suggestions to the Council:

- New barriers (like the one at McCauley & Grove) at Woodward Park or fixing the old ones to eliminate the safety issue.
- Installing timbers at McCathran Hall to eliminate the erosion issue

- Furnace Room entrance; drainage & new steps.
- Rebuilding the rock walls at selected intersections.
- Rebuild the fireplace in Woodward Park.
- Town drainage at problem locations, particularly at the area of Brown and Pine Ave and where Rt. 124 storm water empties into the Lake area are to be addressed with a solution and cost to be presented to the Council at the December meeting.

In working with the Woods Group, a new bridge is needed and this can be built and installed “in house” and done over the winter.

McCATHRAN HALL—Joe Clark

Working with Ann Briggs and her committee, the following has been identified as projects to be done over the winter months:

1. drainage issues along Center Street to be resolved by using rocks, earthen swale and larger stone where roof runoff creates problems.
2. relocate sump pump hose exit near basement stairs,.
3. replace/adjust/lubricate door locks, clear and paint doors and exterior of windows.
4. various maintenance items within the Hall –clean upstairs rug, refinish and paint interior windowsills, clean blinds, and repair sign over door entrance.
5. clean and paint exterior door to old council room.
6. additional bench(s) for the area outside the entrance doors to create a more functional area for gathering and conversation.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS— Bill Robertson

Paving: I met with J.J. Veirs of A.B.Veirs on Friday to discuss logistics for the paving work to be done Monday and Tuesday. All work listed in the RFP is scheduled to be done. One concern I have is the unknown subsurface condition of Grove Road where the road divides. The contract from A.B. Veirs excludes undercutting to repair soft areas and only includes surface milling and overlaying with asphalt. Undercutting and repairs to soft sub-base material will be done at a modest additional charge. It is my opinion that the undercutting be done where necessary in order to obtain a finished product that will give the town years of service. I spoke with Mary Challstrom about going over budget and she told me that to a limited extent going over budget could be tolerated without bankrupting the town. Unless I hear otherwise, Steve Werts and I will be on hand to review the subsurface conditions and make recommendations for subsurface repairs and any additional expenditure. Veirs has staged their equipment in town to begin work on Monday.

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract Update: The annual snow removal contract expired on April 15, 2010. The new contract with Lion was ratified and we are awaiting snow (but not so much as last year!).

Trash Contract: Nothing to report

Leaf Collection: US Lawns began leaf collection two weeks ago and seem to be doing a good job keeping up with this year’s crop. As of Friday morning, the number of loads of leaves removed from the town track with the same period last year.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

The PC and the HPC met for their monthly joint meeting on October 27. Charlie Challstrom presented the draft of the Ordinance to amend Article VII, Sections 3 and 4 for presentation at the Town Forum regarding mansionization. After review and discussion Charlie offered to insert suggested changes and have an updated draft ready for distribution at the Town Forum scheduled for November 17, 2010.

The HPC met on November 10 and 16, 2010 to plan for the Mansionization Forum for November 17, 2010.

ACTION ITEM: The HPC requested the Town to purchase a projector for power point presentations for such meetings. Currently the Town relies on the one owned by Washington Grove United Methodist Church or private lending of such equipment. Having our own would have been particularly helpful in preparing for the Town Forum for November 17. It was requested for me to approach the Town Council for this requisition.

The Mansionization Forum was held on November 17. Approximately 20 residents attended. Bob Booher presented the proposed draft ordinance. Bob presented the justification for amendments through the power point presentation prepared by the HPC. Many questions were addressed. The HPC is continues to be open for comments.

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

The Recreation Committee pulled together a party on October 29, 2010 in recognition of our acquisition of the LOS field. Mayor Darrell Anderson and former Mayor John Compton gave the official toast and delightful gathering ensued with snacks, a cake, champagne, and delightful herring and Akvavit supplied by Don and Birgit Henninger. Thanks to Missy Yachup for pulling this wonderful event together so quickly. A great sunset was viewed during the party!

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Joli McCathran

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

No report.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Sylvie Favret

No report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

No report.

MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

No report.

WEBSITE—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

No report