

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—December 2010

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

I have received the MDA gypsy moth egg case counts on January 4 and the good news is that there are zero (0) egg cases for the seven sampling points they surveyed. These points are spread around the Grove were selected because they have previously had the highest egg case counts (2006 and 2007). The state has no plans to spray for gypsy moth this spring. Their main focus right now is hemlock woolly adelgid.

Steve Werts has completed the landscape-timber and rock drainage system that the Committee requested be installed behind the shrubbery next to McCathran Hall. Much of that shrubbery was moved/re-arranged to facilitate the drainage work. Committee Chair, Audrey Maskery, will be working with Steve to get the larger rocks we need to hold soil in place between the Hall and Center Street. In February, the Committee will be developing plans for new planting in this area. We expect that much of the work (perennial installation) will be done as part of Arbor Day on April 9.

After five months of working on tree removals, Steve and I have agreed that a greater effort is needed to do preventive/maintenance pruning on the trees in our public areas. So far this year we have been fortunate in not needing a great deal of emergency tree removals. Steve has also been able to take down some smaller trees that were in threatening condition by recruiting volunteers to help him. I now have a list of trees with branches that ought to be removed and in May, I plan to bid out a contract for them. The amount of work will depend on the amount of money left in the tree removal budget.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on December 1.

Permits were approved for 315 Brown Street (partial tear down and remodel) and for 415 Grove Ave (lowering roof of accessory building).

There was considerable discussion of the boundary survey requirement for most building applications. The PC members have been asked to bring specific wording to the next PC meeting for any additional exceptions they think should be incorporated into the building permit application package.

Steve Beckish, representing the owner of the Commercial Corner, came to discuss on-going plans to refurbish the exterior of the property façade. The latest plan will return the appearance to one that more resembles the original structure and, in fact, is very similar to what was recommended by the HPC. A demolition permit will be needed from Montgomery County and a prior one from Washington Grove as well. He was asked to fill out the application and bring it back in.

There was a lengthy discussion of the draft ordinance to amend Article VII, sections 3 and 4 (our on-going attempt to address “mansionization”). The consensus was that more work was needed before an ordinance proposal could be accepted.

PC/HPC: Meetings in November and December were postponed due to lack of members who were available during the holiday season. The next joint meeting will be January 26.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

During December,

1. Trees were cut down in the area between the tennis courts (roots starting to damage court surfaces) and dead tree removed from the Town Nursery.
2. salt and sand spread on town roads as needed for ice hazard.
3. painted men's and women's bathrooms in the Town Shop.
4. cleaned and painted some of the playground equipment
5. repaired, welded and upgraded mower decks for JD tractors
6. repaired stop sign that was damaged.
7. picked up leaves, tree limbs and brush and where necessary, took debris to the transfer station.
8. met with Maintenance Committee.
9. put sand and barrels for snow/ice at several Town intersections.
10. cut down tree in East Woods which was threatening a neighbor's property.
11. cleaned snow from town hall sidewalks, and set up the Gazebo, Railroad Park, and McCathran Hall with Holiday decorations.
12. Worked on snow blower to ready it for winter work.

McCATHRAN HALL—Joe Clark

1. Installed timbers and gravel for better drainage around McCathran Hall.
2. Made preparations to install insulation under floor area of McCathran Hall.
3. Cleaned gutters around McCathran Hall and Town hall.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS— Bill Robertson

Paving: A.B. Veirs began the paving work on Monday November 22nd. All work bid in the contract was completed by Wednesday, November 24th. The intersection of Oak and Chestnut required an undercut to remove an abandoned 10 inch metal pipe which was the cause of the dip in the road along Chestnut. The undercut was backfilled with millings which were placed in lifts and each lift was compacted prior to asphalt placement. The work on Grove Road at the divide was completed without an undercut. No soft areas were found. The asphalt was placed with a pitch directing water toward the wooded area and away from the vegetated island.

CONTRACTS—Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract Update: Awaiting snow!

Trash Contract: The trash and recycling contract states that if the pickup date falls on a holiday the recycling will not be collected until the next scheduled pickup day. I missed this in the contract and failed to get a notice in the November news bulletin. I called the contractor Saturday morning after the Friday pickup and he graciously offered to get a truck in route to make a recycling pickup on Saturday November 27th since everyone had their recycling at the curb side. I suggest that the next contract have this clause removed to simplify everyone's life.

Leaf Collection: US Lawns continues to collect leaves. The final collection was completed January 3, 2011. Steve Werts, Kathy Lehman and I met with Kevin McLaren, the owner of U.S. Lawns, to discuss their proposal to charge additional for the increased volume. Mr. McLaren was to get back to me after doing a cost analysis and I have not heard from him. After a two week

hiatus for snow and freezing temperatures the crews returned to complete the removal of all leaf piles. This contract will need some quantifying language added when it is re-bid.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Joli McCathran

The HPC met on December 21, 2010.

Projects Review: The HPC reviewed the permit application from Jim Snyder to install a shed at the rear of his property at 201 Maple Road. The HPC will follow up with their review to the PC.

Building Permit Application Procedure: The Committee is developing a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) to make available on the Town web site to make the process more transparent. Work on this will continue.

Actions: It was suggested David Stopak work on amending the historic district to include the newly acquired field.

PC/HPC Work Sessions on Mansionization: The PC/HPC draft ordinance was reviewed. The December 2010 combined meeting is postponed until January 26, 2011. This postponement means the 18 month time limit in Ordinance 2008-07; effective July 22, 2009 will elapse. The Building Coverage Standards for residential Zones reverts to those in place before July 22, 2009.

Mimi Styles pointed out one of the slides shown at the 2nd Forum on Mansionization on November 17, 2010 may have been misleading. Slide 15 states that the “*graduated maximum enclosed area*” concept (on which the proposed ordinance is based) would allow each residence “an average increase in size of about 1000 sf.” Please review the minutes of the December 21, 2010 HPC meeting for detailed corrections. However, the updated chart is below.

Additional square feet allowed under proposed ordinance (2,320 +10.5%)	Number of properties
Under 1,000	21
1,000 to 1,500	12
1,500 to 2,000	62
2,000 to 2,500	56
2,500 to 3,000	16
3,000 to 4,000	14
4,000 to 5,500	5

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Joli McCathran

The Recreation Committee did not meet due to inclement weather. However, some business was worked on via e-mail:

The Holiday Show is December 18, 2010 “A Grove Home Companion.”

Samantha Beres submitted a written proposal for a children’s beginning dance class to commence in January 2011. This proposal was sent to the members of the Committee with

positive response. Missy asked Samantha to proceed with these classes. The suggested schedule is Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. in McCathran Hall. A fee per class was recommended.

King Soul (Tom Clifford's band) was asked to perform from the Saturday evening event of Music Weekend. Work continues on other activities for this weekend.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—Joli McCathran

Joe Clark contacted me about maintenance jobs for this winter and early spring with may include the playground areas and tennis courts. We discussed budget concerns. More action to come.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Washington Grove was represented at the Annual MML dinner. The main topic of discussion was the MML resolution requesting the State to reinstate Highway funding revenues. Washington Grove submitted a Town Resolution in favor of this MML initiative.

MEMORIALS—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Nothing new to report.

WEBSITE—Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Sylvie Favret

No report.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Sylvie Favret

No report.