

COUNCIL REPORTS

September 2011

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

Meeting – Missy Yachup, Eve Zibart, Amy Porter, Charlene McClelland, and Alice Negin.

Eve Zibart is the new Co Chair of the Recreation Committee. Meetings are held every three months and all are welcome. Labor Day was discussed. It was a big success. This was year 31 for the Washington Grove Labor Day festivities. Gray Yachup was awarded the title of Super Grove 2011.

The Recreation Committee discussed how much they appreciated all the hard work of the volunteers for this event. They noted that Birgit Henninger will be retiring from creating and making all the medals that are given out for the Labor Day events. This was Birgit's 30th year! Thank you Birgit! You will be missed. There was discussion about ways to find a person who might be willing to take on this important work. They are exploring options and will report back with findings at the next meeting.

Bluestoberfest – October 1

Time 6-10 at the Gazebo

Paper Products Provided. Brats and Potato Salad provided.

BYOB and a side dish or dessert to share.

October 29 Halloween Party

McCathran Hall with Time: To be determined

The Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 17, 2011 at McCathran Hall

Pat DiBella will chair this highly anticipated event.

More information as it becomes available will be posted in the Bulletin.

April at McCathran Hall

Plans are being made for an April program for the children. The program is not known yet.

May 12, 2012

Town Meeting at McCathran Hall

June 15, 16, and 17

Music Weekend: More information later.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

Nothing to Report. Next meeting will be in October 2011.

WEB SITE – Alice Negin

Meeting – Bill Saar, Alice Negin, Kathy Lehman.

We discussed the use of the calendar on the web site and added Kathy Lehman as a calendar user for the web site. This will allow Kathy to enter dates of use for McCathran Hall rentals and other information directly to the calendar on the web site from her office.

We also discussed possibly switching to using the Google calendar because it is free and easy to use. Bill felt that while the Google calendar is easy to use it does not offer the flexibility that the current system (Postman) has to offer. An example of this would be color contrast choices, Postman has many more to choose from and with a busy calendar and many different activities highlighted, the Postman system would be easier to read and understand. Bill suggests we start out by adding Kathy as a user to the current Postman system while he explores the Google calendar. Bill will get back to us with more information about the Google system in October.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

September saw the near completion of work on the tennis fence and continued work on the parking barriers at Woodward Park. The old concrete post pole sections were disposed of at the transfer station.

The continued mowing of the walkways, parks and the Lake was done as needed, allowing for the dry weather to cause some areas needing less work.

Considerable work was done cleaning up after the storm earlier in the month, including tree limbs down and debris cleared from Town streets.

The flags were put up/taken down for Labor Day festivities.

The diving board at the lake was taken down for winter storage.

The mowers and trackvac were serviced and regular maintenance performed on the mowing equipment.

At the Town Hall, service inspection panels were cut for the sprinklers and the men's toilet repaired.

Several trees were removed because of damage and others were inspected for trimming.

Drainage ditches were cleared of debris along Railroad Ave and Oak & Maple Ave.

One 12 inch drain pipe was replaced with a 16 inch pipe.

A total of 15 trips were made to the waste transfer station, much of it as a result of the storm.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

There was continued discussion with the HPC regarding the schedule for permit review and approval by both bodies. The Planning Commission asked that the current practice remain in effect.

Three permits were reviewed: 204 Ridge Road -fence- approved.

302 Ridge Road -relocate existing shed –approved.

306 Ridge Road -a temporary use permit has been issued but a permanent permit will be required. There will be a follow up with the owner.

Updates were presented on the Deer Park Bridge and Robert's Oxygen access.

There was discussion on Block 9 land issues and the condition of the sidewalk along Washington Grove Lane.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Pepco/Asplundh is still removing branches from trees likely to impact the power lines plus secondary lines throughout town. The large tree limbs currently waiting for removal will hopefully be removed within the next two weeks.

A purchase has been made for new trees from Stadler nursery; the trees will be planted later this month in the following locations;

Maple avenue: - Sweet Gum * Colorado blue spruce*

Old town garden: - Cherry, Black Gum

Maintenance shed: - Yew; American Holly

Grove Road/Dorsey: - Hawthorn

Brown Street extended: - Sourwood

Howard Park: - Witch hazel

Zoe Park: - London Plane tree

* Two trees donated in memory of Mary Kay Du Bois and Dr. & Mrs. Charles Horan

Other sites have been selected for the spring tree planting.

A resident in Saybrooke applied to have three trees removed (at his expense) to facilitate his new solar panel array. Steve Werts and I went and inspected the trees in question. We determined that two of the trees could be removed, but the third was a very healthy specimen that should to be preserved. A letter giving him permission to remove the two trees was sent this month.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

A Sweet Gum was donated by Greg Silber and Jim Snyder in memory of Dr. & Mrs. C Horan.

A Colorado blue spruce was donated in memory of Mary Kay Du Bois by the Reverend Ted Crass and his family plus a park bench memorial plaque to be placed in the tennis court area.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

Review of Projects: Observatory/accessory building at Lottes property, 330 Ridge Road. HPC considers it to be comparable, in terms of review, to a temporary structure. Since HPC doesn't review temporary structures, the HPC declined to review this project. Bob intends to send a note to the WG Planning Commission (PC) regarding this decision.

Town Building Permit Review Procedure: At the last PC meeting, David Stopak presented the concept of decoupling the PC approval of town building projects from the HPC review. Although all PC members agreed early HPC review is preferred, there was concern this decoupling proposal would delay the overall review process versus improve it. At future meetings on this topic, HPC members should make a point of clarifying what is mandatory per the town ordinance: HPC review is required; the advice provided is advisory.

Next HPC Workshop: The workshop will take place November 12th, 1-4 p.m. at McCathran Hall. It will commence with a 1-hour introductory PowerPoint presentation re: moisture and temperature flux challenges to the homeowner and follow with some on site home visits.

Archivist Job Scope: The HPC approves the plan for Joli McCathran to bring forward for Town Council endorsement the candidate being proposed for the HPC archivist position. The HPC also recommends David Neumann be a volunteer temporary assistant to the incoming archivist. David Neumann prepared the archivist job description and described the scope of work.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

The Maintenance Staff and volunteers continue on the installation of the tennis court fence.

In response to citizen concerns, Ann and Elly Briggs agreed to work on finding volunteers to monitor field use for the rest of the 2011 season. Some permits are currently in place for group activities. The volume of vehicles parking in the field parking lot is overcrowded and presents a safety hazard. On several occasions, permit holders were asked to remove cars to another location.

WASHINGTON GROVE COMSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Three members of the Field Committee met with Brenda Sandberg and additional MNCPPC staff. The meeting posed some challenges. Although the full agenda written by Brenda Sandberg was not achieved, the main outcome was an assessment of the hedgerow and non-native plant material which requires removal. Carole Bergmann is to follow up with this part of the development of the field.

A park Police Officer attended the meeting and said she would follow up with the two known encroachment violations. She was asked to send copies of correspondence to the Town. She did speak with one resident along Ridge Road regarding this issue.

I spoke at length with Brenda after the meeting and we agreed an offsite meeting with Chairmen Ernie Kawasaki, Mayor Georgette Cole, and I was a good idea to work on moving the relationship between the Town and MNCPPC in a forward direction.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Steve, Terry and I removed and replaced the drain pipe intersecting the walkway on Oak St. in the park. The old corrugated pipe was too small and half of it was rusted away. The new pipe is smooth bore ABS plastic and is twice the diameter of the old pipe. This has been a drainage bottle neck for years and was continuously being blocked by water borne debris during heavy rains. With the rains of the past week, it seems to have solved the problem but we will not know for sure until we have a sure enough gully washer instead of the constant drizzle that we have had for the past week.

I have been unable to contact Ed Roberts after repeated attempts and will not pursue at this time.

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Leaf removal and snow removal contractors have touched base with the Town. A Council discussion is merited before sending their notices to proceed for the fall/winter seasons.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

Nothing to Report.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Nothing to Report.