

COUNCIL REPORTS

October 2011

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

Missy Yachup/Eve Zibart Chairpersons

Recreation sponsored events for October:

Bluestoberfest: This annual event was held October 1st. It was a great success. The fun was moved to McCathran Hall instead of the Gazebo because of weather.

Mousetrap Concerts: The first Mousetrap Concert was on October 16th at McCathran Hall. The Jasper Quartet played and wowed the audience with their skill and musicality. Next concert is November 20th.

Blackthorn Ceili: Music and Dance Workshop McCathran Hall, Workshop 6-7pm, dance 7-9:30pm, Pot Luck supper, contributions appreciated for the musicians.

Monster Ball: McCathran Hall, Saturday, October 29th, 6-9pm. A costume/dance party for all ages. Pizza potluck dinner- bring a pizza to share. Drinks and desserts provided by the Recreation Committee. To volunteer to help call Emily Cavey at 240-838-1840.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

Summary: Town Hall Needs Committee Meeting

Ann Briggs; Chair; Monday, October 17, 2011

The Hall Committee did a walk-through and discussed maintenance of McCathran Hall. Some jobs are contingent upon the schedule and availability of Maintenance. Ann has emailed Joe and Steve with a list for their review.

Review and Recommendations:

- Deep Cleaning: forego for this fiscal year; review for FY13
- Window Cleaning through out building: schedule for this year. (\$750 in budget)
- Doors, Exterior: Paint
- Gutters, downspouts: Clean out this fall

MAIN HALL:

- Floors: Schedule refinishing of hall and steps with Hawkins Floors. (No \$\$ in budget, but Mary thinks this can be done). Kathy is trying to schedule this for the week of Dec. 26-Jan.1. This will be done as package with Council Room floor refinishing. The Hall will be closed during this week.
- Blinds: Restrung Wood blinds with heavier cord to eliminate breakage. Try prototype, if right cord can be found. If prototype works, re-string blinds a few at a time.
- Vents: remove vent covers, clean them and vacuum ducts throughout building.
- Loft: Shampoo rug; also Office rug
- Lift: clear out
- Traffic cones: store outside in large plastic tub near bathroom door (Ann will check dimensions of stacked cones and possible plastic containers)

- Track Lights: check w/Steve re: replacement bulb for ceiling track parallel to doors

OLD COUNCIL ROOM AND KITCHEN:

- Ants: schedule exterminator for job and follow-up (Kathy will schedule ASAP).
- Vents: see above
- Recycle bins: store outside
- Trash cans in hallway and bathrooms: Remove old and dirty covers. Exchange two “round top” cans from kitchen to bathroom; square ones from bathrooms to kitchen. Mary will store old tops, then take them to the dump

COUNCIL ROOM:

- Floors: refinish as part of Hawkins job (Dec. 25-Jan 1, 2013)
- Map Case: clean and paint (Steve winter job)
- Carpet in Office: shampoo

OTHER:

- Outdoor electric source: give some thought to installing electric source in “sitting area” beyond paved entrance to Hall. Steve suggests this could be done without damaging pavers
- Mayors Pictures: ask Woman’s Club to pursue securing and framing photos of Mayor Compton, Mayor Anderson and Mayor Cole. (Ann will contact Margo Cavenagh). The Group has several ideas about rearranging pictures to fit the wall; also considering making Mayor Roy McCathran’s photo more prominent as first Mayor and source of name of the Hall
- Scissors for kitchen: Despite lurid stories of previous thefts of scissors, Ann will solicit donation of new pair from Mr. Briggs, old Town resident

The committee will meet again after the New Year to review and to decide what to send along as budget requests for the next fiscal year (FY’13).

WEBSITE – Alice Negin

Bill Saar said that he reviewed both the Postman calendar and Google calendar and he and Kathy both like the Postman calendar. At the moment we are not being charged to use Postman, so it is recommended that we continue to use Postman over Google until the time comes that we need to make a new decision as it relates to saving money (Google calendar is free). Below find the pros and cons that Bill reported.

POSTMAN CALENDAR

<http://washingtongrovermd.org/index.php?qtabs=5>

Pros:

- multicolor events offer better visual experience in all views (e.g. d, w, m, list)
- search capability to filter events/calendars

Cons:

- cost \$250/yr?
- no click event details w/popup (new browser page opens on click)

GOOGLE CALENDAR

<http://washingtongrovermd.org/index2.php?qtabs=5>

Pros:

- Free
- click view event details w/popup
- Google button at bottom ...opens user's Google calendar (must have a Google calendar?)...can add/subscribe to any of calendars on WG Google calendar.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

The entrance gate has disappeared. We don't know exactly when and how. No discussions yet on a replacement.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE – Joe Clark

For a final time this season, the parks and Woodward Park field were mowed, as well as most of the walkways. Brush was picked up from the walkways

The edge of the tennis courts was cut with a concrete saw and the remaining asphalt was removed and taken to the transfer station. The north side of tennis courts was completed and the corner supports finished. Grading of all the area surrounding the courts was completed and the area cleaned of the construction work.

A bench was installed at the Morgan Park.

Low hanging limbs were cut in the park and nursery areas.

The handicapped lift at Town Hall was serviced as well as the fire alarm system.

Leaf collection started this month and now with two Trac-Vac machines working, most of the mulched leaves will be deposited into the forested areas where they will help build up the soil.

Installed a new gate for the lake entrance and secured it to make it much more difficult to steal.

There is a continuing problem with certain areas around town where residents have dumped yard debris onto the Town walkways. This creates an environment for rodents to live in, makes the public land both unsightly and potentially, unhealthy, causes significant drainage problems, leading to tree root compaction and fails to protect the Town property. Residents are expected to take care of their own waste and not dump it onto Town / public property. In addition to yard waste, we have had to remove an oil tank, for sale signs, pool chairs and other trash. This is just not acceptable and people are asked to be more thoughtful.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

The Commission met and approved the building permit for 330 Ridge Road (observatory); discussed fence height and setback requirements and survey issues. It discussed the need for better control over driveway permitting process, heard reports from the work of the Council and had questions about the condition of the sidewalk along Washington Grove Lane.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

Report by Council Liaison: Joli McCathran reported on the progress in hiring the newly open position of Town Archivist.

Permit application and Written Review Procedures: There was no further progress on the proposal to the Planning Commission (PC) to make an early review part of the permit application. It was agreed that Bob, David S. and Margot will strengthen the proposal in response to the critiques from the PC. Bob and David S. will schedule another presentation to the Planning Commission. Margot will also continue her work on improvements to the HPC review application and the permit application process in general.

Historic Work Area Permits: There was discussion of the feasibility of Historic Work Area Permits in Washington Grove and how such permits could ease the problems with the County Building Inspection Officer. (In a renovation a resident was re-using old bay windows taken out of a wall that was being replaced. The old windows did not meet County codes, but were, nevertheless, seen by the HPC as desirable because they helped maintain the historic character of the house.) It was agreed more information was required to understand what kind of permits could be issued by the Town to exempt restorations that are historically compatible from County Codes. Bob offered to look into this issue further and report back to the Commission.

Future workshops: A November 12 date was set for a workshop on issues related to energy efficiency and insulation in older homes.

Town Archives & Archivist: David N. reported on a meeting he attended in Garrett Park on archival issues for small communities.

Humpback Bridge Status: Bob reported on the progress of the Bridge Committee. A landscape architect has finished a tree inventory and will provide a report on impacts. The Committee has discussed road standards and quiet zones. It plans to engage State Senator Nancy King and the state legislative delegation. Discussions with CSX are planned for November.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Mayor Georgette Cole, Committee Chair Ernie Kawasaki and I met with Brenda Sandberg to discuss the plans for the park development. The meeting was constructive and the three of us came away positive feelings on our working together in the future. Brenda said she has read the Committee's draft plan and will pull together ideas to formulate a complete plan. This will take a bit longer because of her office move. However, she will be in touch with us once she has a combined version of the M-NCPPC plan.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Snow Removal Contract: The snow removal contract extension letter was submitted to Lion Contractors, Inc. We await snow.

Trash and Recycling Contract: Nothing to report

Leaf Collection: The leaf collection contract extension letter was submitted to U.S. Lawns of Montgomery County. Service will begin in November.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Asplundh has finally finished work in Town; some logs have been left in place for Town residents to take advantage of free fuel for winter fires.

Stadler planted trees on the 1 November in the following locations:

Maple Ave - **Sweet Gum**, (*Liquidambar*); **Spruce** (*Picea pungens*)

Old Town garden – **Cherry** (*Prunus serrulata* - PINK); **Black Gum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Chestnut Ave – **Dogwood**, (*Kousa - Satomi*)

Maintenance shed – 2 **Yew** (*Taxus canadensis*); **Holly** (*iiex hybrida 'Conaf' Oakleaf*)

Grove Road ext. - **Hawthorn**, Winter King (*Crataegus crus-galli*)

Brown Street ext – **Sourwood** (*Oxydendrum arboretum*)

Howard Park - **Witch hazel**, (*Hamamelis × intermedia*) Jelena

Zoe Wadsworth Park – **London Plane tree** (*Platanus acerifolia*)

Two trees were removed by contractor from Daylily lane side of West Woods; the trees were identified as a hazard to nearby property.

MONUMENTS – Audrey Maskery

A request has been received from Kathy Evans for a memorial in the name of Bob Evans. Kathy would like to place one or two large bolder/rocks engraved with Bob's name. She has identified three different sites for the memorial.

1. Morgan Park (near the current memorial rock).
2. Morgan Park close to the Evans house.
3. Howard Park in proximity to Town Hall.