

COUNCIL REPORTS

January 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Alice Negin

New resident Mary Warfield has joined the Recreation Committee. Mary, along with Jane Grissmer organized this year's Caroling event in December. Mary also agreed to sponsor the annual Bluestober Fest next year.

Eve Zibart booked the children's program. Barry the Magician will perform in McCathran Hall on April 15th at 2pm. More information will be put in the Town Bulletin.

Ann Briggs and Charlene McClelland will provide refreshments for the Town Meeting.

Music Weekend

Friday June 15 – Polka Dance at McCathran Hall

Saturday June 16 – Missy is checking with Tami Williams for more information on the Children's Recital.

Sunday June 17 – Ann will book the Homewood Brass for the Baroque Breakfast. Kitty Vogan has agreed to take the lead with Mary Warfield for organizing for Baroque Breakfast.

July 4th

Ann Briggs suggested have the Big Game on July 1st, the Sunday before the July 4th holiday. The committee agreed.

MCCATHRAN HALL – Alice Negin

The McCathran Hall Committee will meet at the end of January. Next year's budget will be discussed.

WEBSITE – Alice Negin

Nothing to Report

PLANNING COMMISSION – Joe Clark

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was held on February 1, 2012.

Public appearances – there was a request for a clarification for the location of a temporary structure at 302 Ridge Road. After some discussion, the home owner will reapply for a permit, locating the structure near where it presently is sited.

Permits –

The fence permit for 127 Maple Road was approved.

The permit for 201 Maple Road to locate a garage on the property was discussed and the applicant will proceed with his application for a new structure.

Towne Crest rezoning and redevelopment: There was much discussion about problems related to the increase in density, storm water runoff, traffic concerns and other impacts on the

neighborhood. The Planning Commission will submit a proposal for consideration to the Mayor and Council outlining the Commission's objections to the Towne Crest redevelopment.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Joe Clark

Report from Charlie Challstrom from the January MML Meeting:

Comcast Renewal --Mitsi Herrera did a superb job of educating us on the cable franchise renegotiation process. The "Needs Assessment" is critical and must include community cable-related needs and interest. What do we envision is necessary for the next 15 years or so? Recall we requested and got cable and internet service for municipal buildings with the last round of this franchise agreement. We also got funding and equipment for the municipal cable studio and channel. (There are other public channels too; schools are wired as well; some public buildings have additional wiring capabilities enabling tele-conferencing, etc., and some areas have limited/low power public wi-fi as a test.) There will be focus group sessions, stakeholder interviews, telephone and online surveys, and a Chapter working group to help us (enough members volunteered last night to fill this group). Key to all this, in my opinion, is being linked to representation in negotiations by attorney David Podolsky who has represented the 17 municipalities in past such negotiations. Mary and I spoke with David last night. There is a slight risk we may have to pay 1/17th of the legal costs. (Total cost is estimated at \$30K, so 1/17th is less than \$2,000. Also recall the Washington Grove budget has \$3,300 revenue as backup from cable franchise fees.) In past negotiations of this franchise, municipalities have not had to pay legal costs once negotiations are complete. We expect Comcast will agree once again to reimburse for these legal costs. I recommend Washington Grove jump on board and authorize David Podolsky to represent us again.

Municipal Tax Duplication --There has been a joint County/Municipal Task Force working on this since 2007-- and the report is still not finished, despite many promises. The draft report keeps getting distorted by County staff. There is much frustration with certain members of County staff -- and little confidence that the County Executive has been properly informed. The current County estimate of the total cost of applicable municipal services is \$13.4M. The most recent County reimbursement total has been only \$6.4M per year -- only 48% of what should be paid to municipalities.

The next meeting of the Chapter is February 16, the Annual Meet and Confer with County Executive Ike Leggett. The Chapter President has a pre-meeting scheduled with Ike for February 2 to ensure Ike is properly informed on this matter.

Orientation for Municipal Officials --Rockville is hosting an orientation session on MML for relatively newly elected municipal officials on Tuesday, March 6, 6:30-8:30 pm.

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

PC Letter re: Permit Review Procedure: The letter was discussed, and it was suggested that the HPC engage PC members informally re: concerns with early HPC review. Specifically, Bob Booher will contact Charlie to get more insights into the issues/burdens alluded to broadly in the letter.

Report by Council Liaison: The HPC discussed their goals for the FY 2012-2013 Budget. Joli McCathran will send a budget draft to the Treasurer. The HPC members requested a new category of a budget item to include a separate itemization for archival digitization. This segued into mention of the Small Museum Association that has someone on staff to help formulate

mission statements for historic preservation groups. Mission statements may be necessary for applying for grants to qualify for funding consideration of such funding

Town Archives & Archivist: We discussed with our archivist Pat Patula written archives assessment. Essentially, she believes the physical archive is in really good shape. She also offered that the Washington Grove website is a great asset and crucial to research on town/historic information. Pat went on to suggest that, in the near term oral histories online would be a terrific goal to pursue with the ultimate plan for intersection with the Town website (PastPerfect has the ability to have files put online). Joli agreed to send an email to Mary Challstrom and Georgette Cole to request that purchase of PastPerfect 5 proceed in this fiscal year.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The Field Committee met with Brenda Sandberg, MNCPPC and Mike Jones, MNCPPC, Area Park Manager. Brenda showed the committee a very rough draft of their "Operation and Use Plans" for review and discussion. Brenda's preliminary plans include ideas similar to the ideas we had conveyed to her. She seems amenable to working with us in implementing management of the field.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report

CONTRACTS – Bill Robertson

Leaves, Trash and Recycling- The current contracts will expire this spring and we are in the process of soliciting bids.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Christmas trees continue to be collected and disposed of. Decorations were removed from Town Hall, the gazebo and the train station.

The flat files in the council room were removed, sanded and repainted while the floors were refinished between Christmas and New Year.

A bulk materials storage bin was constructed at the maintenance area utilizing the creosote poles removed from the tennis court parking area.

The chronic leak under the kitchen sink in Town Hall was diagnosed and repaired.

Cleaned and serviced all three mowing machines.

The carpeted areas in Town Hall were cleaned.

Drainage ditches around town were examined and cleared as necessary.

Existing signs at entrances to the Town were removed, cleaned, repaired as needed and repainted prior to reinstallation.

Roads were sanded as necessary following the one period of icing in mid month.

A fallen tree was removed from the walkway at the Lake entrance.

Brush was cleared from along Chestnut Avenue between Center and Oak.

The fire suppression system in Town Hall was inspected and found to be in need of repairs.

These repairs were completed.

The exterior doors of Town Hall were sanded and repainted.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Maintenance removed dead and dying dogwood trees from the Grove Road entrance to the town at the request of F&B. The garden area will be re-landscaped in the spring. The town signs have also been refurbished; the paint had faded badly over the last ten years; the signs are now sporting their original colors. The paint used was kindly donated by Craig English.

Arbor Day falls on 28th April this year. Residents are invited to come celebrate the day by helping to clean up and plant the gardens around the Town Hall. Additional soil and mulch will be supplied by Maintenance in preparation for Arbor Day.

Maintenance has done a magnificent job of landscaping the area in front of the garage; we plan to plant shrubs in the area to provide a finished effect.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

A commemorative plate honoring Bob Evans will be ordered on behalf of Bob Evans's family and placed on a new bench in Morgan Park. A plate in memory of Mary Kay Du Bois will also be purchased and placed on a bench in the Tennis clay court.

MAPLE LAKE – Sylvie Favret

Next Lake Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th, to start planning Clean-up day (Saturday, April 21), geese, budget, life guards, swim instructors, and other duties. After that meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting March 21st at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

Hutch put out a "first call" to all former Washington Grove lifeguards to see who is interested in working this summer.

SAFETY – Sylvie Favret

Nothing to report