

COUNCIL REPORTS JUNE 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

Recreation – The SITP program is ready to go and the 4th of July activities are organized and ready to enjoy for the entire Grove. Many thanks go to Missy Yachup for her committee's work.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark: Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The Town will begin a new contractor with Potomac Disposal beginning July 5th. The selection of Potomac Disposal was because of the significantly lower bid, not due to any dissatisfaction with Montgomery Refuse. In fact, they have done a very good job over the term of this contract.

People are asked to have their trash out to the street by 8 am. If anyone is missed, please email Joe Clark at woodherb@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 301-869-7944.

Due to the storm, the first pickup coming the day after the 4th of July holiday and the difficulty navigating a “new “ route with all the trees down and limbs set along the roads, it is hoped that people will be patient the first couple of times for pick up.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Pepco removed top half of dead tree on Grove Road leaving debris, the smaller manageable branches were cut and left for Town residents who can use the wood. This is a long standing policy of the Town Council. The larger parts have been cut and will be removed at a later date. Four large dead trees were removed earlier in month in area behind the picnic fireplace, the wood cut and left for town residents; the stumps will be ground out to prepare for planting of trees in this area next fall.

There have been a number of inquiries concerning the Town policy on removal of dead or dying trees. Dead trees within the East Woods or West Woods are generally left in place for nature to take its course. When a tree dies in a park or residential area it is taken down and removed and stump ground out. Removal ensures the safety of residents and of our Town Maintenance staff who work in and around these areas. It also prepares for planting new trees for the future tree canopy. We are losing so many of our beautiful old trees that are coming to the end of their lives and replacement is imperative for future generations to enjoy our ‘Town Within a Forest’.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery: Nothing to report

HPC – Joli A. McCathran

Projects: The HPC reviewed permit applications to install solar panels on the roofs at 348 Ridge Road and 352 Ridge Road. The HPC also reviewed a permit application for 119 for dormer window installations on the roof. Mimi will draft all HPC permit reviews.

PC Meeting Report: The Town doesn't require permits for solar panels. HPC will still review and comment. HPC will write the review.

Towne Crest – Revised plan for 356 residences versus original proposal of 469 dwelling units. The HPC started an impact review of the original Towne Crest proposal. Now, we have a chance to bring it to completion and incorporate language from the Planning Commission.

CSX – The Town’s Bridge Committee had a very positive meeting with the CSX representatives concerning their proposal to raise the Deer Park Bridge. The CSX representatives were amenable to the Town’s interest and further discussions are underway.

Street lighting: The HPC discussed the Town Council’s actions at their last meeting regarding street lighting. Recognizing the HPC has a role to play in this discussion, the group reiterated its interest in providing its commentary from the historic perspective about streetlights to both the Town Council and Town Lighting Committee.

Town Bulletin: Pat Patula’s Archive Report mentions missing camp meeting association minutes from 1884-1902. Mimi will include this information in the next Town Bulletin with a request for folks to look in their attics, etc. to attempt to locate.

Archive Report: Pat Patula submitted a monthly archive report the work she, Wendy and Joli are doing. Joli will look into the details of Pat’s reference to computer backup problems at McCathran Hall.

Board of Appeals: Jim Snyder’s appeal of the PC’s denial of his building permit application to enclose his carport was denied by the BZA. He is now proceeding with a request to change language in the Town ordinance that motivated this decision. This will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting, July 9th.

Commissioner terms up for expiration or renewal: David Stopak and Bob Booher’s terms as commissioners are set to expire and/or are up for renewal. Bob has agreed to continue on in his capacity as commissioner.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

The recent serious storm damage did leave several downed trees in the park and playground areas. The Maintenance Staff is diligently working to clear the damage.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

MNCPPC hired Montgomery Weed to do some application on non-native invasive plant material along Ridge Road. Georgette, Ernie and Joli visited the area to review the work. It was determined to set up a meeting with Carole Bergmann and Brenda Sandberg to discuss the long-term plan for this work.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Paving: Nothing to report

Walkways: Cleaning and debris pick up continues.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

The usual (written) Maintenance report is deferred due to the Great Storm of 2012 and ensuing loss of electricity and huge amount of cleanup. Maintenance staff has been working at full tilt starting with clearing the roadways and moving on from there. Bill will report verbally at the Council meeting. The Council will need to discuss funding issues as neither this storm nor the

possibility of lower Ridge Road maintenance was envisioned in the recently passed Town budget. Town Maintenance also completely resurfaced to dock at Maple Lake.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

- There have been numerous cases in which nonresidents have accessed the combination lock. The combination was changed on June 29.
- Several instances of fishing lines and hooks being left around the dock have occurred. Fishing is not allowed from the dock and fishermen are reminded to pick up everything they take to the lake. New signs regarding no fishing areas are being posted. Several instances of unpermitted parties at the lake have occurred and empty beer cans were left around.
- Town residents will be reminded to familiarize themselves with the Lake Rules and Fishing Regulations, and to obtain Party Permits from Sally Mansfield ([301-977-3189](tel:301-977-3189)).
- The lake is heating up (probably too fast) and the algae load is increasing. Algae treatment has been applied and the circulation pump was used for certain periods.
- Swim Lessons are underway (June 29 - July 27).
- Next Lake Committee meeting is 7:30 on July 18 in the Town Hall.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

Keith Gillis plans to have the police liaison visit the Town for a general discussion of safety issues. The Lighting Committee continues to meet and plans to keep its commitment to have a draft lighting plan to the Council in the fall. Bob Booher offered to contact a municipal lighting consultant to walk through the Town and discuss some options, pro bono. On June 28 the Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee met and walked around Town with lighting consultant John Coventry of Coventry Lighting.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to Report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

There is no expected activity of the Hall Committee until fall.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

In June, the Planning Commission approved permits for solar panels at 117 W.G. Lane, 348 Ridge Rd, and 352 Ridge Rd.

Town Crest Update: Town representatives, including attorney David Brown, met on June 25 with staff members of the Montgomery County Planning Department to share the Town's technical analysis and evaluation of documents regarding the proposed Towne Crest Apartments redevelopment. This local map amendment and rezoning proposal is scheduled for review by the County Planning Board on July 26, and a hearing before the County's Hearing Examiner is expected in September.