

COUNCIL REPORTS

JULY 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

The Summer In The Parks program finished its 2012 season with the annual sleep over. What a delightful sight to see the colorful tents and parents and children enjoying the good weather and fine food. Next up is the annual Labor Day weekend with games, races and pot-luck food...be sure to check the monthly bulletin for details.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark: Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The month began with the new trash and recycling company, Potomac Disposal, Inc. There have been few problems and things seem to be going well. All of the residences that were missed have been located and resolved. The primary problem remaining is some confusion of the part of a few people about mixing paper and plastic. As the Grove Alert stated, this is not acceptable. Also, paper needs to be either put in a paper bag or tied in a bundle for pickup.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Many trees already weakened either by age or earlier damage became victim to the Derecho that moved through our area. Maintenance did an excellent job of clearing the roads to make them passable, later tidying the many piles of debris left by households with tree damage. Forestry and Beautification will be assessing the parks and Town owned land for suitable sites for re-forestation. Planting of hardwood trees usually takes place at the end of September through October. Planting late in the season provides the trees with a better chance of survival the following summer.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery: Nothing to report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Planning Commission meeting report: Gail Littlefield reported on some Towne Crest developments discussed at the July 11th PC meeting. The HPC discussed how to respond on historic preservation grounds to the current Towne Crest plan.

Lighting Committee: Chairman Bob Booher went to the latest meeting of the lighting committee. Bob and the Committee walked the Town with a lighting consultant John Coventry, who is familiar with Pepco, fixtures, shields, colors, etc. Establishing different zones, for example, walkways, roads, the field, was discussed. The Committee plans to submit a plan in the fall.

MARC changes: The HPC discussed how best to communicate to MARC the Town's opposition on historic preservation grounds to the conversion to flag status of some of the present regular train stops in Washington Grove. Margot Bohan will contact Georgette Cole about some HPC input into a letter to MARC from the Mayor. Margot will also try to contact some other communities on the Metropolitan Branch to determine how they are responding to the change.

Bob will contact Scott Whipple of the Mont. Co. HPC about whether it could submit a letter to MARC stating its opposition to the planned changes.

HPC members new terms: Bob Booher and David Stopak agreed to continue to serve on the HPC. We sincerely appreciate their service and leadership.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

As a result of the intense storm in June several areas of the playgrounds were blocked off until dangerous, hanging branches could be removed.

I have received several comments of the excellent condition and maintenance of the clay tennis courts. Additionally, several Town residents have expressed their pleasure at witnessing the gentler use of the ball field.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The MNCPPC and LOS staff met with Georgette Cole, Ernie Kawasaki, Audrey Maskery, and Joli McCathran regarding the non-native invasive species and the undesirable growth along the hedge row paralleling Ridge Road. MNCPPC agreed to hire professional contactors to work on this process. A schedule for receiving the Draft Maintenance Agreement was discussed. Brenda Sandberg, LOS, requested to present to the Town Council at the September Town Council meeting to present the plan.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Paving: Nothing to report

Walkways: Cleaning and debris pick up continued on all walkways.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Storm cleanup continued. Maintenance Supervisor Steve Werts is assisted by seasonal help: Terry Cox, Sam Appleby and Nicho Lembesis. He is also assisted by volunteers Bill Robertson and Bruce Rothrock. Regular maintenance, such as mowing and watering, were fit into the schedule as needed.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

A number of holes have been observed in the fence around the lake, at least one large one was caused by downed trees. Holes have been repaired or plans are underway to repair them.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

The Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee is meeting on Thursday August 9th and again on Thursday August 23rd. The Committee is working on its report to the Council.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to Report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Nothing to report until the fall.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

Building Permits: The Commission approved building permits for 119 Maple Ave. (dormer modifications) and 201 Maple Rd. (chimney replacement).

Charlie Challstrom was re-elected as chairman of the Planning Commission for another year.

Towne Crest Redevelopment: Several Town officials met with the County planning staff on June 25th and discussed Town concerns with the proposed redevelopment based on the thorough technical analysis completed by lawyer David Brown. The Washington Grove Planning Commission also approved a motion to disapprove the preliminary forest conservation plan proposed as part of the Towne Crest redevelopment. The plan would require the removal of many trees on Town property. The County Planning Board hearing will now take place on September 13th to review the developer's rezoning application and the Hearing Examiner's meeting is now scheduled for October 5th.