

COUNCIL REPORTS

August 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

All summer activity is complete and the Labor Day festivities are in place. It has been a good year and many thanks to Missy Yachup her work and that of her committee.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark: Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The trash pickup contract has been going well. Town residents responded well to the reminder that the recyclable materials needed to be separated into different containers.

The Council will need to select a snow removal contractor in the near future.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

There are still many trees with dead branches in both East and West woods, it will take some time before all of the branches are removed. Town Maintenance has arranged for the removal trees and dead branches of trees close to roads and avenues.

Pepco arrived in Town once again to remove any tree branches within eight feet of their power lines; they will also be removing at least four trees that have the potential of falling on the power lines. This should be the last of major tree work by Pepco for at least four years.

F&B have ordered seven oak trees; a piggy back order with Gaithersburg from Waynesboro Nursery, an additional order will be placed with Stadler September/October. We have lost so many trees it will take a number of years to replace the tree canopy.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery: The Evans family has placed a memorial plaque on the bench in Morgan Park; the plaque is in memory of Bob Evans, a long time resident of the town and a past mayor.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

The HPC has elected Bob Booher to serve as their Chairman for the coming year.

Lighting: The Historic Preservation Commission asked if Pat Patula/Wendy Harris could look into the history of lighting in Washington Grove, specifically to see what's available in archives, i.e., old Pepco bills. Also discussed was the desire to pursue historic information on lights in town; zoning recommendations; and suitable historically-correct fixture recommendations.

Permit Review Procedure: Margot Bohan outlined progress and future plans to update the HPC aspects of the Town's building permit application/review procedures. Margot will develop out the FAQs in anticipation of a 1-hour discussion at the Oct 16th HPC meeting. Bob Booher will also bring the latest version of the design guidelines to this meeting for additional discussion/consideration.

Design Guideline Revisions: Bob Booher would like to enhance the existing version of the Design Guidelines. He suggested we do this in parallel with making changes to the HPC aspect

of the building permit application/review procedures. The plan is to look at these guidelines as well as the Town's nomination to the National Register together with the Interior Secretary's Historic Design Standards. Ideally, the HPC will be able to add figures/images to the current guidelines to more clearly elucidate character-defining features.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

There was vandalism in the form of attempting to set fire to a piece of playground equipment. The damage occurred on the multi-climbing/mini-slide apparatus. Steve Werts is to assess and appears able to make the necessary repairs.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) did hire Montgomery Weed, Maryland Department of Agriculture to spray along Ridge Road for non-native invasive removal of plants material. The Town will continue to work with MNCPPC staff to continue the eradication of such material.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Paving: Nothing to report

Walkways: Continued debris removal on all walkways.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Storm cleanup continued. Myers & Laws Tree Service was contacted to chip brush throughout the Town and was in Town for two (2) days.

- Trees blocking 1st and 7th Avenues were cut and removed.
- Lake fencing repairs initiated along with tree and debris removal.
- Split rail fencing repaired at the Lake entrance and on Center Street.
- Grass mowing and tree watering continued throughout the month.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

The Lake season is winding down. No life guard coverage will be provided after Sunday, August 26 and "swim at your own risk" signs have been posted. The diving board was removed on August 27th. Algae will be treated one more time before the end of summer. Kudos to life guards, swim instructor, and to Steve and crew for clearing downed trees and branches and fixing fences following the July storm. The Committee reports that resident "participation and involvement indicates that the lake was a well-used and wonderfully-appreciated resource, as it has since 1955!" An end of the season Committee meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 13th at 7:30 at the Town Hall.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

The Outdoor Lighting Committee continues to meet and intends to provide periodic reports 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: No permit applications were received.

CSX Update: Chairman Challstrom reported that the Bridge Advisory Group is working on a draft agreement with CSX regarding their proposal.

Barbara Hawk Letter: As requested by Mayor Cole, the Commission addressed the issues associated with the June 20, 2012, letter from Ms. Hawk requesting purchase of a Town-owned parcel on the south side of her property at 416 Fifth Avenue. The Commission voted 4-0 that “the proposed sale would be inconsistent with: the precedent of alleys between private properties that were sold to those adjacent property owners; the Policy for Sale of Surplus Parcels, specifically with regard to public use of this parcel; and the 2009 Master Plan.”

Towne Crest Redevelopment: Discussion ensued regarding townhouses that have setback problems (too near West Woods/Daylily Lane) and the percentage of green space in the redevelopment.