

COUNCIL REPORTS

December 2012

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

The December meeting was rescheduled for January 9, 7:30 pm in the Council Room.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark

Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

The work of US Lawns for leaf pick up finished with a final pick up just after the New Year began and everything seems in order.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Project Reviews: Members reviewed a permit application from Manish Gupta to build an addition to the rear of the house at 348 Ridge Road. As this is not a contributing structure the HPC had no recommendations. The HPC review was submitted to be posted on the Town web site.

PC Meeting Report: Gail Littlefield reported on relevant issues at the December PC Meeting.

Permit Procedure: Margot Bohan continues to work on the permit procedure. She is working on: 1) a set of FAQs, 2) a separate HPC application and instructions, and 3) a “creating the process” document. There was discussion regarding whether the effort should be focused on a separate process for the HPC or on modifying the current PC-focused process. It was decided to complete the effort to optimize the process related to the HPC and present it to the PC and the Town Council. A combined work session with the PC was recommended.

Towne Crest: The developer of Towne Crest has distributed a flier to the surrounding community describing their newest proposal for a slightly reduced density. David Stopak reported that their lawyer attempted to obtain a copy of our application to Preservation Maryland for the Endangered Maryland program. They were refused and referred to the HPC. Joli McCathran noted the impact that the application had made and the coverage it had gotten in the media.

Wallace Report: Gail Littlefield reported on the meeting she attended regarding the initial structural engineering report finding that the trusses of McCathran Hall. The committee and Council have decided to proceed with a closer examination to be done by the engineer and a recommended contractor. Gail Littlefield encouraged the HPC to provide oversight of the process.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Brenda Sandburg will be presenting the final draft of the Operations and Use Plan at the January 14 meeting of the Council.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

All mowing equipment was inspected, repaired and serviced.

The Ford tractor was prepared for snow duty.

After the Town acquired the property at the lower end of Brown Street Extended, the sediment pond and sand filter were cleaned and refurbished.

After consultation with David Wallace, the structural engineering consultant, additional areas of the Town Hall exterior were exposed in preparation for a second visit by Mr. Wallace and a contractor. The visit is scheduled for 1/3/13.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

The Committee reports that: thanks to Steve Werts and the maintenance crew, the lake looks good for this time of year. The clearing of downed branches and fence repair has been completed. In addition:

No signs of geese (yet) - we need to keep an eye out for them;

No ice (yet) - the bubblers are still running, but they will be turned off if freezing is to occur;

No trash (yet).

The Fifth Annual “Polar Bear Plunge” took place at the lake on 5 January.

The Lake Committee will meet on Wednesday 20 Feb. to begin planning for the 2013 season.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

Council members Joe Clark and Greg Silber and members of the Outdoor Lighting Committee (OLAC) will meet on 7 January to help clarify the Council’s expectations and mission of the OLAC, and to help develop a better understanding of processes and decision-making regarding Town lighting.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Charlie Challstrom and Greg Silber attended the 13 December Legislative Dinner hosted by the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. 2013 Legislation was the primary focus.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Based on the recommendation from the Hall Committee and approval by the Town Council in December, the engineer, Mr. Wallace, and his recommended contractor (accompanied by Steve

Werts) are scheduled to work on an in-depth analysis of the structural issues of the Hall starting on January 3.

The Hall Committee plans to meet later in January to work on budget requests for FY14.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

There were no building permit applications. Bud O'Connor came to discuss permit requirements for fence repairs. After discussion with the Commission, he stated that he will attempt to fix the problem again and come before the Commission in the spring.

Chairman Challstrom explained the reason for a proposed ordinance for public ways. The Town needs to exercise more authority over the use of Town land so we have more predictability and order when outside entities (PEPCO, WSSC, Verizon, CSX, etc.) do work in Town. The Commission wanted more time to review the draft document and agreed to send revisions to each other, with further input from the Town attorney, and produce a document to give to the Town Council by its meeting on December 10, 2012.

Code Inspector Larry Plummer renewed his contract with the Town.

The survey of Block 2 was approved as amended by Chairman Challstrom.

The Commission discussed and agreed that the issue of snow removal responsibilities for the newly constructed concrete sidewalks along Washington Grove Lane should be resolved because of potential liability for the Town.