

COUNCIL REPORTS

January 2013

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Joe Clark

There has been discussion for expanding the stage for Music Weekend festivities so that larger bands might be able to provide some of the entertainment. The Holiday events were wonderful and well attended.

WEBSITE – Joe Clark

Nothing to report

CONTRACTS – Joe Clark

There has been careful and regular contact with the snow removal contractor and when there is snowfall of over 2 inches, the streets will be plowed.

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Six oaks of assorted types purchased from Waynesboro Nursery arrived mid January. The trees have been planted by our Maintenance crew in Woodward Park, Chestnut Avenue, and Wade Park.

Town Maintenance has continued to have tree stumps ground out; this is an ongoing program to facilitate mowing and provide future sites for trees lost to age or storm damage.

Forestry & Beautification with the assistance of Town Maintenance are planning to thin out trees planted over many years in the 'Town Nursery'. Trees that can be moved from the nursery to a more suitable site will require a tree spade. A contract has been accepted with Kelly Landscaping as lowest bid. The work will take place the end of February/March 2013.

The State of MD Gypsy Moth report shows few moth cases in Town and spraying will not be necessary this year.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Report by Council liaison: Joli McCathran provided an update on the structural repairs for Town Hall. Gail Littlefield will do some preliminary research on possible sources of historic preservation grants to support the repairs. Council passed the new ordinance requiring outside entities to get a Town permit before digging, etc., on Town property. (The HPC will seek clarification on HPC review of these permits.)

Deer Park Bridge: Gail Littlefield and Bob Booher reported on the Jan 10 meeting with National Park Service bridge experts.

Planning Commission Liaison: Bob Booher reported on the January PC meeting. Topics covered were new uses for the former Oakmont School, a new draft ordinance regulating decks, Towne Crest development plans, and recording of the new block survey.

Permit Review Procedures: Margot Bohan will continue to draft revisions to the procedures currently on the web site, to make them more user-friendly and to insert HPC review at an earlier stage in the process.

Towne Crest: Towne Crest counsel has submitted a revised development plan, which will be the subject of a county Planning Board hearing in mid-February. David Stopak will recommend to the HPC an appropriate strategy for the hearing. Also, the Town is appealing the Planning Board's approval of Towne Crest's tree variances.

Oral Histories: The HPC sincerely appreciates the excellent work Judy Mroczka, Ken McCathran, and Pat Patula have done to create and preserve oral histories of Town residents and their memories of the Town's past. Pat Patula reported there are currently 40 tapes in the Town archives representing oral histories from 1975-2009. Ken McCathran will proceed to copy the cassettes to CD's with the goal of making them accessible through the web site. Judy Mroczka reported donor cards exist for oral histories done 2007 to present. The HPC and oral historians discussed the options for preserving the oral histories and making them available to the public.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Brenda Sandberg, LOS manager for the Montgomery County Parks Department, presented the Town Council with the "Operations and Use Plan" for the meadow. A finalized draft should be forthcoming soon. Committee Chair Ernie Kawasaki sent it out to the members of the Committee requesting comments by January 25, 2013. He will forward comments to Brenda Sandberg.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Town maintenance checked roads and walkways after the various snow, wind and rain events removing debris as necessary.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Broken spring on Town truck was repaired in house.

John Deere mowers were repaired and serviced for spring mowing season.

Trees, jointly purchased by TWG and Gaithersburg from Waynesboro Nursery, were transported and planted in various locations around town.

Christmas tree collection and disposal continued throughout the month of January.

Several meetings with the engineer and contractor were held throughout the month to plan and execute the installation of the town hall roof support pole. Pole will remain in place until roof repairs are completed.

Maintenance scraped snow from and spread sand on Brown Street and Ridge Road hills along with various problem intersections and school bus stops. To date all road treatment for snow has been performed in house, utilizing available Town equipment. The equipment currently available for this task is marginal and needs to be the subject of further Council discussion.

MAPLE LAKE – Greg Silber

Lake Committee will meet on 20 February to begin planning for next season.

SAFETY – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

A meeting was held on January 23, 2013 to review and make recommendations for Town Hall needs for FY13 and FY14. Items included funding for work to repair the roof if the process can be concluded in time to schedule work in FY13. Items for the preliminary budget request for FY14 included about \$12,000 (along with vent cleaning TBD) under maintenance, a \$1000 contingency set aside, and with an amount TBD for structural repairs for the Hall. Note: the center support pole has been put in the Hall and Mr. Wallace is working on the scope of services and drawings which may be ready by the February Council meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

Building Permit Applications: a permit for a small addition on the rear of the home at 346 Ridge Rd. was approved.

Report on 17051 Oakmont Ave: Charlie Challstrom noted that the rental of Oakmont Grand Hall beyond its day care use is not allowed in the C-T (Commercial-Transition) Zone in Montgomery County (as well as the signs being used are not permitted or approved). Charlie will convey to the owner that we support the adult day care use but that a formal complaint about other use and signs will be sent to Montgomery County.

Draft Ordinance No. 2013-02: This draft ordinance, to Amend Article IV, Building Permit Regulations to Modify the List of Structures for which Building Permits are not required, was discussed and it was agreed to continue the discussion in February.

Towne Crest: Charlie reminded everyone of the February 15, 2013, meeting with the County Hearing Examiner. The amended plan, filed January 11, still violates the current zoning and has compatibility issues.

Deer Park Update: Charlie stated that the Bridge Advisory Group continues to consult with CSX.