

COUNCIL REPORTS

May 2013

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Projects for review:

- 202 Grove Ave. - House Renovation/Addition. Applicants Glenn and Kristen Perry were present. A review was completed.
- 404 Grove Ave. - House Renovation/Addition. Applicant Ryan Young was present. A review was completed.
- 201 Washington Grove Lane - Enclose porch of shed. Applicant was not present. Plans were sufficient and review was completed. In reference to 201 Washington Grove Lane discussion ensued of complaints about failure to keep the property clean and lack of County permits for the work being done on property.

Archive Report: Records Management: Archives is suffering from lack of space to store additional material as the collection grows to include current records. Adequacy (or lack thereof) of environmental conditions discussed.

Preservation Maryland 10 Most Endangered Sites: Preservation Maryland is sponsoring a tour of Seminary Park on June 1. HPC members will attend and make a presentation concerning Washington Grove.

New Business: Discussed the possibility of a joint meeting of the Town Council, Planning Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission. All agreed reviving this tradition. With the moving forward of the Town Meeting and consequent need to develop the budget earlier, it was considered that an earlier date for such a joint meeting would be necessary. Town Council Liaison Joli McCathran is encouraged to suggest this possibility at the next TC meeting when she makes her report.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

The Town Council did allow for a one-time use of park facilities for a private gathering involving Town residents. The event was held and no problems were reported. Kathy Lehman is working on a draft document to allow people to apply for one time uses of Woodward Park.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkiewicz

The geese are gone. Life Guards are scheduled for the whole season, but we need a few more "fill-ins". We have hired a swim instructor (Victor Sellemi).

Bees burrowing in the sand are not a real problem. The ones there now are a native bee and an important pollinator and will be gone before the July swimming lessons start. Honey bees may also come to use water in the wet sand but they are also not aggressive.

The Lake Committee is working on invasive plants (algae, pondweed, etc.) and may need extra funds to keep it up. We discussed how to control the invasive plants with Bill Dowling (from Empire landscaping) who suggested planting some Irises (and other plants) around the lake to help filter out the phosphates and starve the algae. They will not proliferate "too much" according to Bill.

SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkiewicz

OLAC is continuing to research outdoor lighting options offered by Pepco and exploring DOE and commercial reports about lighting.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkiewicz

Nothing to Report

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Town maintenance cleared brush along Maple Ave and Center Street and Cherry Avenue.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

The mowing season is in full swing. The field is being mowed twice a week at 5 inches. Mowing and trimming is the major maintenance activity for the month.

No Christmas trees were found this month. I feel that some time limit should be placed on this service.

The beds around Town Hall and the Woman's Club were cleaned and mulched.

Cleanup of tree debris at the lake continued. Debris was chipped into the woods.

A goose light was installed at the lake and it appears to be working as there are no geese nesting at the lake.

The street light on Brown Street was repaired for a second time.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

The Town's refuse/recycling contract has been fulfilling the contract's requirement of using small-sized trucks. However, the number of trucks of this size in their fleet is limited and if one of these breaks down larger trucks are used. Because the wheelbase is the same for both sizes, the contractor has asked if the Town would consider allowing use of the large trucks for regular pickup. Doing so likely would not impact on the Town's roads. The Council should consider this and potential negative impacts, and perhaps consider either amending the contract to allow the use of larger refuse/recycling trucks by some other means.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber

Nothing to report

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Silber attended the May meeting of the Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance. The meeting featured a presentation by a representative of the EYA Corporation that will be developing a 45 acre tract between Crabbs Branch Road and the CSX rails south of Shady Grove Road. The project, a total of 90 acres, 45 of which is to be developed later by the County, extends from where the Montgomery County school bus facility currently sits, south to and adjoining the Shady Grove Metro station. Retail and residential units (about 410 town house and 1,100 multi-family apartments) are planned. A preliminary site plan has been submitted and the final plan is expected to be approved by spring 2014. Ground breaking is expected perhaps by fall 2014 and completion of the project is expected to take several years.

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/...ShadyGroveStationWestSideSitePlanpresentation.pdf>

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Pictures of former Town mayors were moved from upstairs in the Hall to downstairs (to the old Council chambers).

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

Building Permit Applications:

201 Washington Grove Lane--The application was approved pending HPC review.

207 Maple Avenue—An application for a fence was reviewed.

404 Grove Avenue—The Commission could not approve an addition as proposed because of the encroachment into the side setbacks.

Ordinance No. 2013-02: Building Permit Regulations:

The Commission discussed possible wording to address some recommendations from the Town Council which introduced this ordinance. The Commission will continue to work on this ordinance.

Public Ways and Property Permit:

The Commission reviewed this draft notice to the public utilities and contractors, the permit, and instruction sheet. The Commission concluded that for now the HPC did not need to review such permits but that the HPC should be informed of any Public Ways and Property Permit that is issued.