

COUNCIL REPORTS

June 2013

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

During the month a number of dead trees have been removed and stumps ground out. Where dead trees are seen to present a danger to persons or property the tree is totally removed, in cases where the dead tree will not endanger the public or property, the tree will be topped around twenty feet and left for use of the wild life.

The Sacred Circle (gardens) are currently being cleared of vines, and invasive vegetation, this large project has been undertaken by Sam Appleby as part of the Forestry and Beautification budget.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Project Reviews: A permit application from Nick and JoAnn Suzich for an addition on the back of their house at 122 Chestnut Ave. was reviewed. The Review will be submitted by Mimi Styles.

Archive report: Moisture in the archive room appears to be condensation on the floor perhaps due to the proximity of the AC ducts below the floor. The overall temperature and humidity readings appear to be adequate. The door between the office and the archive room will be left open to see if that helps resolve the moisture on the floor. The amount of available storage remains a looming problem.

Preservation Maryland: The HPC reviewed a draft of an announcement of the Endangered status intended for County and State officials. The letters were sent.

Cator Property: The Commissioners discussed the message distributed regarding the inquiry by a representative of the Cator Property which was annexed in 2008. The Planning Commission has indicated they approved a submitted subdivision plan. It was unclear whether the HPC had officially reviewed it. Bob Booher volunteered to research the status.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Clay Court Committee: The committee met on June 28, 2013. The committee agreed to collect and analyze the costs of constructing and maintaining new asphalt courts and for maintaining the existing courts. Greg Silber had contacted a professional maintenance service. Joli and Ken McCathran visited the clay courts in Mountain Lark Park, Maryland and spoke with their court maintenance person to obtain information about maintenance of their courts. Steve Werts offered to solicit cost estimates for both maintaining the existing clay courts and for constructing new asphalt courts. The committee agreed we needed costs estimates for a verity of options. The next meeting is scheduled for late July.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The park was mowed a second time this year to work toward getting a handle on the mile-a-minute and other non-native invasive plant material throughout the park. MCNPPC did return to

hand rake the mile-a-minute and other invasive climbing vines off of the trees. They hired professional services to spray problem areas.

MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkievian

Swim lessons have been arranged by Tom Land and Emily Brown. Life Guards are in place - trained and supervised by John Hutchinson and David Harmon. Tom Land & John Hutchinson are keeping the Algae & Pondweed under control.

SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkievian

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Keith Gillis sent out guidance to residents to respond to a wave of recent break-ins and is reviving the neighborhood watch program.

The Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee is discussing PEPCO street lighting options and investigating possible paths forward.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkievian

Nothing to Report

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

No Report

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

No Report

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

Refuse pick-up contractor, Potomac Disposal, has asked to use larger trucks when/if the smaller trucks they typically use have maintenance problems. If it becomes necessary to use a larger truck, prior notification will not be required; with the understanding that the smaller trucks are still preferred. Approving the use of larger trucks for regular pickups would be a change to the existing contract which the Council may wish to consider. Steve Werts has been consulted and he believes use of larger trucks would not be a (wheelbase) problem or adversely impact the Town's roads.

Potomac Disposal has also been leaving large walk-in, wheeled containers around Town on pick-up days. This seems to facilitate pick-up by allowing for a temporary collection site that is then emptied when the crews finish. However, some residents have voiced concern about these containers being left near their homes. Kathy Lehman has worked with Steve Werts and the contractor and has arranged for the containers to be left near the maintenance garage. Unless the Council objects, this seems to be a solution that works for all.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber

Music weekend was a success and enjoyed by many residents. The Friday evening campfire sing was well attended and music provided by town musicians Kathy Lehman, John Hagedorn, and Gary Temple was rousing and fun. The campfire and the "s'mores" appeared to be much appreciated by younger residents in particular. The music event provided by Saturday night's traditional band at the Gazebo was also well attended and much enjoyed. Attendees commented

that the band was great (as was evident from all the dancing) and many people stayed until the last song was over. As always, the Baroque Breakfast featured excellent food, music, and friends.

The Recreation Committee is gearing up for the July 4 festivities. The traditional parade (featuring our own Muskrat Band), speeches, and prizes will be held on July 4. On July 6, The “Big Game” softball game will be held at 3:00 followed by a hot dog roast and pot luck dinner.

The Committee will meet again at 7:30 on July 17th.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

On behalf of the Town, Joli McCathran attended the Montgomery Municipal League’s Annual Convention in Ocean City, MD, 23-26 June.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Nothing to Report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

Current Ordinances: Proposal for Zoning Text Amendment; Side Set Backs for Main Buildings: Chairman Challstrom explained the rationale for the proposal as a first cut at trying to accommodate the variety of smaller-sized lots in the RR-1 zone. The proposed ordinance will change the sum of two sides setback requirement in the Schedule of Standards from 25 feet to 20 feet. Discussion ensued that included how to treat non-compliant properties and the suggestion by a commissioner that further work be done. The vote for the proposal was 4 in favor; 1 abstention.

Request for Boundary Survey Waiver: The Perry’s (202 Grove Ave.) asked for a waiver of the boundary survey requirement because their construction was a considerable distance from the historic property line. A discussion followed about making exemptions and being fair to all; the Perry’s agreed to get a boundary survey.

Ordinance No. 2103-02; Building Permit Regulations: The language of this ordinance was approved for presentation to the Town Council for the July 8 public hearing. Under this ordinance, residents would be required to obtain a building permit when constructing a deck of any size and height.

Building Permit Applications: The application for 202 Grove Ave (mudroom, kitchen, eating area and screened porch) was approved pending the receipt of a boundary survey. The application for 404 Grove Ave. was put on hold pending clarity of the roof overhang and the side setbacks. The application for 122 Chestnut Ave (an addition) was approved pending the receipt of a boundary survey.