

COUNCIL REPORTS

August 2013

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

Trees purchased for Fall Planting:

Wet area near maintenance - Swamp Oak "Quercus bicolor" and American Hornbeam

Dry area near basketball court - London Plane tree "Exclamation" and Burr Oak 'Macrocarpa'

Wet area close to Oak Street & Maple Avenue - Willow Oak

Dry area close to 'play ground' on map - Redbud

Corner of Oak Street & Chestnut road - Fringe tree and Service berry or Winterberry

Waynesboro has agreed the end of September for picking up the trees we ordered. Steve Werts will use the new Town truck to collect them. I requested a call to let me know when the trees will be dug/burlaped so we should have nice freshly dug trees. We do not want a repeat of last year when our trees sat too long as they were bundled with the Gaithersburg tree order. I will remind Matt they owe us one replacement tree for the Oak that died in Wade Park.

Steve has located a water injector apparatus for enhanced tree watering. This is a used unit for a very modest \$500. If needed, the funds could come from Reforestation as this will considerably enhance our ability to deliver water to the developing tree root systems. In addition, it can be used for mycorrhizal injection for developing or ailing trees far more cost effectively than if we had to contract out for this service.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

Joli McCathran received a request to remove the non-native plant material on Political Hill in Wade Park. The HPC is requesting Archivist Pat Patula to research the area. The HPC is considering the possibility of installing a historic marker noting the history of Political Hill.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

Clay Court Committee: The Tennis Ad Hoc Committee met for the second time. The Committee is still seeking information from local professionals including different cost options.

Unfortunately Kathy Lehman resigned from the Committee. Her resignation was accepted with regret. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2013.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

Nothing to report.

MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkievian

Caitlin Kelly and other guards are to be commended for appropriately calling the police to respond to incidents at the lake. Lifeguards were scheduled through August 29th.

The diving board and goose flasher were removed at the end of August. Lake Committee supervisor(s) should routinely give feedback to guards about their performance throughout the

season. We should continue to be creative in reaching out to recruit guards for next year. The lake was treated for pond weed on August 13th and we are keeping an eye out for the need for an additional treatment before the end of the season.

SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkieian

Police continued to investigate incidents reported at the lake.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkievian

Nothing to report.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to Report.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Grass cutting continued.

Non-specific brush clean-up along many roads and walkways.

Tree watering started.

Interacted with Oak Grove Restoration for McCathran Hall repairs.

Removed and replaced some landscaping timbers in the playground.

Established horseshoe pits in Woodward Park.

Maintained drainage ditch through Woodward Park.

Preparation for Labor Day festivities.

Removed diving board from the Lake and stored it for the winter.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

We have worked out a plan for this winter's snow removal. Given the capabilities of the Town's new pick-up truck and recently-acquired plow equipment, Steve Werts and crew believe they can keep Town roads clear in most storms. By plowing early in the snow event -- and most importantly, before snow is compacted on the roads by vehicle traffic -- Town Maintenance expects to stay ahead of most snows. If the snow's volume or repeated snows look to overwhelm our equipment, the contractor will be called to assist with additional equipment. Werts and Silber (and possibly Robertson) will be in communication before and during each snow to determine the best approach for that particular situation depending on the conditions predicted. Among other things, this approach (i.e., heavier reliance on Town equipment and resources than in the past) will likely save money on the snow removal contract in the long term.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber

Another very successful suite of annual Labor Day athletic contests and festivities have been completed! There were a lot of earnest competitors and lots of winners! Many thanks to Craig English and Joli McCathran for so ably organizing another fine year of competition.

The "Bluestober Fest" is on 28 September at the Gazebo, and the "First Annual Pumpkin Carving Festival" will take place on 26 October. A Washington Grove Tee-Shirt design contest is now underway. Designs are to be submitted to Missy Yachup by 30 September.

The Recreation Committee meets again on Wednesday 16 October.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

On August 19, Oak Grove Restoration began its work to repair and re-roof the octagonal area of McCathran Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

The building permit application for 122 Chestnut Ave was approved, with a boundary survey attached.

Chairman Challstrom reported that the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance 2013-05 underwent a revision by Town attorney Ferguson. He explained the Commission's role in a proposed ZTA, the process errors that were made, and handed out a document on the process. Mayor Cole explained the Commission's acceptance of a ZTA application; this will be brought to the Town Council for their re-enactment at their August 12 meeting.

Chairman Challstrom brought up Step 2; encroachments and non-compliance as a follow up to the ordinance. After discussion of various issues, the Commission decided to address the subject in a separate work session.