

COUNCIL REPORTS

September 2013

FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION – Audrey Maskery

The large Oak tree on Oak Street near Grove Ave was sprayed by Integrated Plant Care Inc. for borers. The tree will be sprayed again early 2014.

Trees purchased from Stadler for fall planting:

Red Oak – Morgan Park.

White Oak – Howard Park.

Sweet Gum – Chapel Park.

Dogwood – Oak Street.

Sycamore – between Oak Street & Center.

Area adjacent to Grove Road in East woods cleared of brush and ‘Mile a Minute’ by Maintenance and volunteers. Maintenance will continue to mow in areas up to Mulch Alley to control the burgeoning ‘Mile a Minute’ infestation.

Fallen tree on Chestnut Avenue/Washington Grove lane removed by contractor.

50 tree guards purchased and placed around new trees and trees that have attracted the attention of male deer trying to rub velvet of antlers. The new style guards provide protection from deer without encouraging insects and mice from nesting around the trunk and damaging the bark.

Trees planted in recent years have benefited by water injection. Maintenance purchased the new equipment in August.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran

John Porter, 302 Chestnut Avenue (constructed 1963), attended the HPC meeting to obtain an early consultation and review plans to build a 1 ½ story free-standing 2-car garage/office structure on the property.

The HPC is concerned the Bridge might lose the protections provided by its Locational Atlas and National Register-eligible status. Gail Littlefield will investigate how to obtain an opinion from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and the Maryland Historic Trust on our Locational Atlas and National Register-eligible statuses.

Political Hill: There was discussion of how and if to interpret Political Hill—a plaque? A cleanup? Maintenance? Are there other historic sites in Washington Grove which deserve interpretation? Hotel site? Auditorium site? Maple Spring? A meeting on Political Hill is planned for Oct 14. Pat Patula has prepared a report and recommendations for interpreting Political Hill.

Demolition by Neglect: Gail Littlefield will collect examples of demolition-by-neglect ordinances.

Archives Room: Archivist Pat Patula is tracking the humidity and temperature levels in the archives room via a hygro-thermometer. Both numbers; humidity and temperature, are too high as recommended by the State Archives. The air conditioning system does not run at night, so the outside weather influences the humidity level in particular.

Photo Collection: Archivist Pat Patula and volunteers have completed the scanning of the Philip Winter photograph collection of Washington Grove into Past Perfect and have added brief descriptions of each picture. Pat Patula corresponded with Phil Winter and he has agreed to assist with clarifying the provenance and legal issues.

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran

The Tennis Ad Hoc Committee will meet again on October 29 in McCathran Hall. Information is being collected and analyzed regarding use of courts. All options are up for discussion.

WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran

The Planning Commission received an application from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for a permit to access Montgomery County property via driving through the Park for sewer relining. This permit requests the removal of 2 trees within the Park area. The Planning Commission will respond with some questions and contacting Brenda Sandberg of MNCPPC as it appears they must also issue a permit for access.

The Montgomery County Parks Department Senior Management review of the Meadow Park Operation and Use Plan has been scheduled for Thursday October 22.

MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkiewicz

The Lake Committee is reviewing possibilities for proposing regulations regarding dogs at the lake. After a working session, future steps will follow according to procedures established by the town charter. The Committee is also addressing algae and pond-weed treatment, water quality testing, and is discussing safety at the Lake including video surveillance cameras.

SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkiewicz

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkiewicz

The Calendar page was temporarily removed at the recommendation of the Town Clerk and Council Liaison because we were unable to update it with correct information. A new calendar is in the works.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Crosswalk @ Daylily Lane – Responded to residents request for a crosswalk at Daylily Lane and Washington Grove Lane. Montgomery County was contacted and stated that this area did not meet their criteria for a crosswalk.

MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson

Grass cutting continued. Because of the dry weather, this has decreased a bit.

A significant amount of time was spent watering new trees with our new watering device.

Trimming in various areas in Town.

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

Continued oversight of Oak Grove Restoration for McCathran Hall repairs, including meetings with engineer David Wallace and the owner of Oak Grove Restoration.

Maintained drainage ditch through Woodward Park including a pipe under Maple Ave. near 111 Maple Avenue.

Empire landscaping was contracted to do weed control at Maple Lake. Two applications have been made to date. Steve continues to monitor the progress.

Took care of two (2) large trees, one (1) on Maple Ave. and (1) one on Grove Rd. that came down in a storm.

Purchased and installed a hydraulic cylinder for the Ford tractor.

Purchase and installed a starter for John Deere mower.

Pot holes on 6th Ave. filled with gravel.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

The Town has arranged with Potomac Disposal for a bulk trash pick-up on 2 November.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber

This year's "BluestoberFest" took place on 28 September -- many thanks to the organizers for making it a success. The First Annual "Punkin Carving Festival" will take place on 26 October, 2:30-4:30. The Holiday show will be Saturday 14 December, with a special organizing meeting set for 2 November at 2:00.

The Recreation Committee meets again on Wednesday 16 October.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber

Nothing to report.

MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young

Work continued this month by Oak Grove Restoration to repair and then re-roof the octagonal area of the Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young

There were no building permit applications approved but two town residents came to discuss their interests in a fence, and garage with upper story work space.

The Commission decided to schedule a work session on non-compliance-education and assistance for September 26.

The Commission discussed town concerns over incidents outside the fence at Maple Lake; it was decided to bring the issue to the attention of the coordinators of Neighborhood Watch and Safety.