

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **October 2013**

#### **FORESTRY – Audrey Maskery**

Forestry now covers two Town Committees, Forestry and Beautification (Chair, Carol Uhlendorf), and The Woods Group (Chair, Ann Briggs) with Audrey Maskery as liaison to both. Reports for each will be part of the monthly Council report so residents can follow what is happening with each committee.

#### **FORESTRY AND BEAUTIFICATION:**

Stadler nurseries planted five trees purchased early October; the trees are part of a continuing effort by F&B to replenish the trees lost to age and storm damage. The new tree guards seem to be protecting the newly planted trees, we will be placing additional guards around established trees deemed to be vulnerable. Additional trees have been ordered from Waynesboro nurseries, these will be planted by the Town Maintenance.

#### **WOODS GROUP: MET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013:**

The Group laid out work to meet a 2013 TOWN MEETING “Assignment”- to use budgeted funds to develop a draft *Long-term Management Plan* for the East and West Woods. The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing and discussing professional advice to date from several sources:

- Md. Dept of Natural Resources - (format and data for a Management Plan - *pdf in the works*); follow up after on-site studies of each woods
- Montgomery County Parks - (Deer Management) and from Pat Klein re: Deer habits, ecology, etc.
- Invasive Plant/animal control: advice on need, methods - (Md. Extension Service; County and Park specialists: Forest Ecologist, Arborist, Brookside Gardens Plant Specialist, EcoGoats)
- Erosion - (DEP Storm water staff)
- Trails - (Sierra Club; Potomac Appal. Trail Club)

East Woods Enclosures discussion- as a 5-10 year control trial, these have met with hard times since their installation in 2009, but the group decided to ask Maintenance to repair the damaged support poles and fencing and evaluate the enclosures in the spring when new growth is underway. We discussed installing a longer and narrower fourth enclosure for comparison to existing enclosures and to the rest of the woods, perhaps in a less soil-compacted area or where we have attacked invasive plants.

Follow up Plans- We will continue to seek professional advice on the above for a comprehensive approach to a long-term plan and

- Plan two public education forums for early 2014, one focused on management of deer and one focused on invasive plants and possibly erosion.
- Schedule walks in both woods with Town residents to better acquaint them with woods ecology and issues.
- Set *Regular Date for Meetings as first Monday of each month from 7 - 9 pm* in the Council Room.

- Plan for November 4 Group meeting- Determine format of and participants for each of the two forums so speakers can be confirmed. Plan first forum for January meeting, second Forum for February meeting.
- Plan for November 9- small group work session will clean up and remark, as necessary, the West Woods Circumferential Trail.
- Tentatively set annual East Woods Trail rejuvenation for 2014 Arbor Day celebration in coordination with F&B's beautification efforts in Town.

### **MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery**

Nothing to report.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Joli A. McCathran**

Projects: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) submitted plans for early review. The WSSC submitted its contractor's (URS) plans for relining the Town's sewer pipes, thereby impacting Town streets and paths, where manholes are located, and for accessing through the meadow water mains located beyond the end of Brown St extended, near the settlement pond.

Bob will write up the HPC's comments on the plans and send them to the PC. Some of the items considered were:

- in the plans, the WSSC and the contractor should acknowledge that the walkways are part of the significance/character-defining features of the National Register historic district and that their character must be preserved, and any loss of material should be replaced in kind (e.g. gravel, grass, dirt)
- avoid tree removal and root damage

Public Ways and Property Permits: HPC members agreed that the HPC should review "Public Ways and Property" work proposals and permit applications, and provide comments to the PC if appropriate, in order to protect the historic integrity of the Historic District and the field.

Oral Histories: Ken McCathran has made a duplicate set of the oral histories. Ken McCathran is going to redo the entire set. If these histories are made available on the Town's website, he recommends they be managed in a way that they cannot be downloaded to protect the legal aspects of ownership. When the revised set is complete, it will be put into Past Perfect also.

### **PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS – Joli A. McCathran**

The Tennis Committee will submit their recommendation for the clay courts at the November Council meeting.

### **WASHINGTON GROVE CONSERVATION MEADOW PARK – Joli A. McCathran**

On Oct. 15 the Mayor and two members of the Town Council met with Brenda Sandberg and staff to preview Brenda's presentation of the Operations & Use plan for the park.

On Oct. 22 the Mayor, three Town Council members and the former Chair of the Washington Grove Meadow Committee attended the formal presentation to the Director of Parks, Mary Bradford, and staff. The presentation by Brenda Sandburg was excellent and was well received. The Town will continue to work with Mike Jones, Park Manager, Montgomery Parks on implementation of the plan.

Council member Bill Robertson invited Maryland-National Capital Park Police Officer William “Ernie” Newman to come visit Washington Grove. Officer Newman did so and toured the Grove for over an hour. He advised us that residents with security or safety concerns in the Meadow Park should call the Park Police non-emergency number: 301-949-8010.

**MAPLE LAKE---Carolyn Rapkievian**

Nothing to report.

**SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkievian**

Nothing to report.

**WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkievian**

Our Web Master, Bill Saar, and Town Clerk continue to work on the calendar for the web site. Use of a Google Calendar is being explored and a new calendar should be up and running soon.

**ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson**

Nothing to Report.

**MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson**

The Town has been given a clay court roller which was picked up by Steve Werts and will be restored to working conditions over the winter as time permits. A rented roller will be used on the clay courts in mid-November to test the quality of the resulting surface. The Town has purchased a used 72-inch mower which Steve will also be refurbishing this winter. In public spaces the need for mowing is now declining but leaf collection is ramping up. Other regular maintenance continues as usual.

**CONTRACTS – Greg Silber**

Potomac Disposal’s 2 November bulk trash pick-up seems to have occurred without problems. Regular trash pick-up will be done on Thanksgiving morning. Leaf collection is in full swing and to date this has gone smoothly. Leaf pick-up will continue until 1 January.

We are close to concluding a contract and plan for snow removal and a recommendation for this will be brought to the Council.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber**

October’s “Punkin Carving Festival” was a success. The “Continental’s” will appear at McCathran Hall on 15 November for a night of dancing and music. Planning for the 2013 Holiday show is underway and will take place on Saturday 14 December.

The Recreation Committee meets again on 15 January.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber**

Nothing to report.

### **MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young**

The structural repair work and re-roofing of the octagonal part of the Hall were finished in October. The Hall now has all the work completed as approved by the Town Council this spring.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young**

Building Permit Applications-The permit application for a fence was approved at 121 Washington Grove Lane.

Public Ways and Property Permit Application-Chairman Challstrom presented permit applications from a WSSC contractor who has been hired to re-line certain sewer lines. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Commission would report to the Mayor and the contractor about various concerns that need further clarity. The Commission will continue its communication with the contractor and WSSC with the expectation of a formal approval at the November meeting of the Planning Commission.

County Zoning Ordinance Proposed Revisions-Chairman Challstrom noted that CT (Commercial Transition) Zones, mother-in-law apartments (granny pods), and the Master Plan revisions are among some of the important issues that may affect the Town. He stated that the Town will have to be vigilant in its monitoring of the zoning changes.