

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **December 2013**

#### **FORESTRY – Audrey Maskery**

##### Forestry and Beautification:

Nothing to report

##### Woods Group:

At meeting held 2 December 2013, the group viewed the Cornell Extension Service DVD on general status of White Tail Deer and some management methods in use in the northeastern states.

They talked over format and participants for the Public Information Meetings to be held in 2014.

1. It was decided not to invite representatives from abutting communities to these initial information holding off in this wider participation if and until the Town considers specific control methods it may undertake.
2. Two speakers have confirmed attendance at January 2014 meeting: Bill Hamilton (*Mont. County Parks Deer control program and member County Deer Management Committee*) and George Timko (*Md. Department of National Resources, Urban Deer Biologist*). The group considered adding a deer contraceptive professional and will contact George Timko to see if he will cover issues related to fertility control, specifically Gonacon and PZP.

The proposed January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting format will be:

(7:30 – 7:45) Intro and introductions.

(7:45 – 8:10) Timko will give overview of general issues and specifics, as appropriate.

(8:10 – 8:30) Audience Q&A.

(8:30 – 8:55) Hamilton will talk to specifics of County Control Methods

(8:55 – 9.30) Audience Q&A and wrap up.

Next Woods Group meeting: January 6, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Council Room.

#### **MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery**

Nothing to report.

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

Records management: Archivist Pat Patula prepared a set of recommendations on bringing the Washington Grove archives and town records into compliance with the Hall of Records standards.

Archives: Pat Patula reported the humidity in the archives room fluctuated from 20-70%. It should be around 50%. There is not enough air flow.

Around 100 pages of old handwritten minutes need to be transcribed. Pat Patula will provide the HPC with cost estimates.

Political Hill: Joli McCathran met at Political Hill with Steve Werts to discuss the cleaning and a removal of non-native plant material in the area.

Archeological Resources in the meadow: Wendy raised issues about protection of the archeology sites in the Meadow. A site survey would cost \$3-4K. This issue should be addressed at the joint meeting with the Town Council and Planning Commission.

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

The Tennis Ad Hoc Committee met in early December seeking information on the response of players testing the clay courts. The Maintenance is beginning the process of drainage improvement to the court. This project is necessary regardless of the surface of the courts. This work will continue as weather allows.

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

Please see the last item under the HPC Report above.

**MAPLE LAKE - Carolyn Rapkievian**

John Hutchinson reports that there were no signs of geese staying at the lake, no signs of vandalism, and no ice for skating.

**SAFETY – Carolyn Rapkievian**

Keith Gillis will be putting a note in the February Bulletin to recruit Block Captains in order to reinvigorate the neighborhood watch program.

**WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkievian**

We are reviewing the use of and usability of the Town website, and planning a resident survey to raise awareness of the range and depth of content on the website and to aid in the regular tuning of the site.

**ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson**

Nothing to report.

**MAINTENANCE – Bill Robertson**

Leaf pickup in public spaces completed.  
Rehab of donated roller for the tennis courts completed.  
Refurbished the newly acquired Hustler mower.  
Christmas tree collection started.  
In-house snow removal.  
Winter maintenance on various pieces of Town equipment continues.

**CONTRACTS – Greg Silber**

Fall leaf collection has (essentially) concluded. Some heavy rains and unseasonably early snow/ice complicated leaf collection this fall. In addition, some leaf piles were left much too long in some locations due to weather and perhaps some confusion by the contractor about locations where collection is expected. These situations were ultimately resolved.

Town maintenance has done an outstanding job – eliciting quite a number of kudos from residents throughout the Town – in clearing the roads during the handful of snows we've had to date.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE – Greg Silber**

The new format and theme 2013 Holiday Show was a much-appreciated success. The Committee received many accolades for a job well done.  
The Recreation Committee meets again on 15 January, 7:30 pm.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL – Greg Silber**

Nothing to report.

**MCCATHRAN HALL – David Young**

Nothing to report

**PLANNING COMMISSION – David Young**

Permit Applications: Chairman Challstrom presented a letter from Mayor Cole to CSX and Montgomery County representatives clarifying contact information and reinforcing the use of our new Public Ways and Property permit for the CSX project.

Non-Compliance-Draft Template to Catalog Information: Commissioners Gumula and Temple presented a draft document called “Compliance Checklist.” The checklist would be used for informational purposes only in an effort to help residents and potential buyers understand what they can and cannot do to their homes.