

Town Council Reports

August 2014

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Georgette Cole

Archives Storage: The HPC approved the recommendations made by the Archives Storage group. This includes the three-year carbonite/cloud contract. The HPC budget can cover the charges. Gail Littlefield will inform the archives group and others of the approval.

SHADY GROVE CROSSING – Georgette Cole

The Shady Grove site manager has replied but no action items have been achieved yet.

WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Georgette Cole

The Parks Department sent in a contract team to treat the localized patches of non-native invasive species (flora). Two (2) M-NCPPC teams have come in over a two (2) week period to treat various NNI. Extra mowing was done near the Park entrance to control stilt grass.

FORESTRY– Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report.

WOODS GROUP -- Ann Briggs – Chair.

A meeting will be held by the Woods Group September 2 (7:30 - 9:30) in the Council Room.

MEMORIALS – Audrey Maskery

A memorial bench has been commissioned by Nicho's family; the bench will be placed beside Maple Lake close to Nicho's favorite fishing spot. The money donated to Nicho's Trees fund will be used to plant trees in both the East and West woods.

PLANNING COMMISSION – John McClelland

Building Permit Applications

- 201 Maple Rd – Plans have yet to be submitted for HPC and PC review.
- 404 Grove Ave – Height inspection completed. Home meets height requirement.

Note: PC to evaluate current method/procedure of measuring “height” in upcoming ordinance work session

Public Ways and Property Permit Applications

- WSSC – Waste pipe to be cleared due to 60% root blockage at 413 center St.
- Approved permit process for time sensitive/imperative utility projects. Any two (2) PC members have the authority to review and approve in these situations.
- Maple Ave waste line project on hold as WSSC is waiting for entire “sleeve” to arrive before finishing.

Easements

- 315 Grove Ave. submitted a request for a permanent easement (front porch and rear corner of dwelling), however, the boundary survey submitted is lacking the required metes and bounds, or bearings and distances, to indicate the land and area for which the permanent easement is sought. An identification plat prepared by a licensed surveyor is

the item needed for a legal description of the property. The Chairman will notify the resident as soon as possible.

- 203 2nd Ave. has not yet submitted a request for permanent easement but is pursuing with a surveyor. An identification plat will be required for the current front porch so the exact dimensions are known if/when a building permit request (with a change in the dwelling location) is received.

Note: WSSC is holding up County demo permit due to a misunderstanding about usage.

Related – PC to request property marker locations for “the residual park located in Block 11” or commonly referred to as the four (4) foot path located behind 315 Grove Ave and 203 2nd Ave.

Building Standards Compliance Checklists

Proceeding at the anticipated slow pace (due to the depth of information being compiled)

Geothermal Heat Systems: Montgomery County requires permits. PC feels they require a Town Public Ways and Property Permit as well. Recent work has intruded upon Town property with water and silt/mud run off. The Chairman is pursuing with the owner of the geothermal company, the County permitting office and County violations department.

Zoning Text Amendment work session scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 7:30 PM.

SAFETY - Carolyn Rapkivian

The Traffic Calming Committee met August 25 with members Kristin Perry (chair), Emily Brown, Alison Faupel, Mary Warfield, Melanie Davison, John Tomlin, and Donna Edwards attending. Emily Brown contacted the new pastor EJ Joon of WG Methodist Church suggesting that parishioners and others using church facilities be more aware of driving through Town. Alison Faupel contacted MCDOT Traffic Operations about the following issues: Daylily Lane residents are cut off from the Town by WG Lane, school bus drop-offs force children to cross WG Lane, and the current crosswalks are inadequate. She received a response from Mark Terry from the Division of Traffic Engineering listing reasons why MC would not install new crosswalks. John Tomlin is developing guidelines for increased safety awareness by cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. The Committee will not take on issues such as speed bumps or traffic re-routing.

WEBSITE – Carolyn Rapkivian

Carolyn Rapkivian met with Marida Hines to develop a draft Scope-Of-Work for the new platform and migration of content for the revised Town website. The draft is being reviewed.

LAKE – Carolyn Rapkivian

Pondweed & Algae was treated and the lake looks great at the deep (swimming) end. There were Life Guards week days Aug 25 - 29th, but there was coverage on Labor Day week-end. Hutch sent out notices and posted signs. We received last water quality report. (Mary Challstrom has a copy.) Great work was done on ditch by lake - laid down lots of cement rip-rap by Steve Werts. Met with NatureWorks & EQR for treatment of lake next year.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

One complaint about recycling pick-up was resolved; other residents provided kudos to Potomac Disposal for a job well done.

RECREATION – Greg Silber

Labor Day Weekend Field Events and activities were once again a great success. There were many winners! Many thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who helped make this another year of great fun.

The Committee has organized a number of fall activities. Upcoming events include:

October 11, 2014, BluestoberFest

October 12, 2014, Film Society Starts

October 25, 2014, Halloween Punkin' Carving

The Committee's next scheduled meeting is September 17th at 7:30.

PLAYGROUNDS – Greg Silber

The Playground Committee held its initial meeting on Monday 18 August. The intention is to develop a playground improvement and maintenance plan, which may lead to a set of recommendations, for the Mayor and Council regarding improvements to the safety, accessibility, and usefulness of the Town's playgrounds and equipment. The Committee made an initial set of conclusions. First, it was clear that Town Maintenance had already made a number of improvements to enhance equipment safety (e.g., painting, removing dangerous bolts) as part of routine maintenance. In addition, in the short-term, several things (e.g., closing "S" hooks, removing a worn rope ladder, closing gaps between slides and platforms) could be accomplished relatively easily and inexpensively and by Maintenance to improve equipment safety. Steve Werts suggested that water drainage is an issue in many areas and improving water flow is something Maintenance might take on this winter to make these areas more accessible. The Committee will likely propose improving drainage and a number of longer-term, potentially more extensive and costly recommendations to the Council after further discussion, some of which may be provided to the Council before this winter. Stay tuned.

The Committee meets again on 23 September at 7:30.

MAINTENANCE - Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS – Bill Robertson

Nothing to report.