

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

JULY 2015

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Georgette Cole

Enabling Ordinance: David reported that the Planning Commission approved the changes recommended by the HPC for Ordinance 2015-13. The ordinance was adopted by the Town Council and will become effective July 8, 2015.

409 5th Avenue: Bud & Carolyn O'Connor submitted a formal letter (which included 4 copies of their boundary survey) to Mayor McCathran on June 3, 2015, to request a permanent easement for a small area of their front porch which encroaches on Town property. The HPC reviewed the information presented and voted to prepare a package with documentation, drawings and photos to identify features involved with the easement. This process will take a couple of months; the Mayor and Planning Commission (cc to Bud & Carolyn O'Connor) will be informed by the HPC Chair.

203 2nd Avenue Review: Not yet complete: the package will include information on the original house, plus architectural drawings of the new house plans. Once Gail submits the list of features, Bob will prepare a drawing of the original house to be included in the package.

Maryland Historic Trust Meeting Update: There was a very small attendance at the presentation held on the 10th of June. Melissa Archer, from MHT, spoke about state income tax credits available to county residents for qualified rehabilitations to historic homes. Unfortunately, most of the contributing structures in town that would qualify for such credits have been changed throughout the years; therefore, obtaining a tax credit would be very difficult to achieve considering the strict guidelines imposed by the MHT.

Cator Property: David reported that the PC approved the final plans submitted by Shirl & Steve Harrison for the development of their property. It was noted that the revised plans include Bob's suggestions for detached garages and a gravel pathway connecting the houses.

Bulletin Material: Mimi noted that the next three (3) Town bulletins will include further information and resources pertaining to the significance of retaining original windows in contributing structures within the Town.

SHADY GROVE CROSSING – Georgette Cole

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Georgette Cole

The Montgomery County Parks Department has modified the course of the mowed walking path to more closely adhere to the approved Operations and Use Plan (O&U) which is further away from 501 Brown Street. They will also start mowing the portion of the path that parallels Ridge Road. This will improve safety for park walkers and provide better access to the portion of the Meadow adjacent to Ridge Road where our Weed Warriors need access to remove Mile-a-Minute (MAM). We hope to organize an official MAM removal effort with community participation. The Park Dept. mowers will deal with a heavy growth of MAM on the eastern side of the park between the upper and lower fields on the end nearer Shady Grove Crossing (SGC). There is a great deal of bittersweet in the northern edge next to SGC but this needs to be removed by hand as it is on the trees planted there by Toll Brothers as part of the site plan. These are now MC Park trees and their responsibility. At the main Meadow Park entrance from Ridge Road on the southeast side they will mow to the left of the entrance path to provide a clear area to install a standard MC Park sign. It will be perpendicular to the road to provide best

visibility to traffic along Ridge Road. The kiosk area will be re-mulched. The 3 downed black locust trees on the west side of the park will be cleared off the Oak Street park entrance. Longer term clearance may have to wait until early winter when their work load is lighter.

MAPLE LAKE – Alison Faupel

The next Lake Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16.

Swim lessons started on July 7 and will run through July 30, with Frank Barrett as our return swim instructor. John Hutchinson, Emily Brown, and several other parents are on hand to monitor the lessons.

The lake was treated on July 7 for algae by NatureWorks CWA. We were advised that we need to treat the "Nyad" with a chemical that will close the lake for swimming, so we will be looking for a weekday—preferably a rain day—that we can close the lake.

The combination for the lake lock has changed again. Please contact John Hutchinson for the new code.

On July 7, a man was seen by lake users outside the fence exposing himself and conducting lewd acts—the third such time this summer. Montgomery County Police were called and responded. They have recommended against chasing the individual, but advised that a photo and details of his dress and appearance would aid their ability to identify and charge him.

PLAYGROUNDS – Alison Faupel

Summer in the Parks will hold a volunteer day on July 13 to weed and pick up trash on the playground. The condition of the playground has continued to deteriorate in the last several months due to litter, landscaping problems, and the age and condition of the equipment.

Steve Werts has purchased supplies for the playground drainage project.

SAFETY – Alison Faupel

Traffic Safety Committee Report - Montgomery County Police continue to patrol Washington Grove Ln, and have replaced a missing vehicle weight sign on Mid-county Hwy. They have also spoken to the owners of several companies that have their business locations along Oakmont and they stated they would advise their drivers to not use Washington Grove as a cut through.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION-Audrey Maskery

Tree pruning and removal of dead tree limbs continued through Chapel Park, Woodward Park, the Circle, and Howard Park.

Pepco/Asplundh continued removing tree limbs that over-hung first (15 foot clearance and secondary power lines (5 foot clearance). The removal of failing trees resulted in Tree Replacement vouchers for \$1,600. The vouchers will be used in the current program of replacing town trees that are in decline.

MAINTENANCE-Audrey Maskery

Finished concreting floor of new addition; and siding. A new door hung by contractor completed the new Maintenance addition.

Tennis – clay court rolled, weeded and grass edges cut ready for use.

Court roller repaired; gravel renewed on path to park bathrooms.

Grass cut in Woodward Park area ready for the town camp-out.
Refurbished sediment pond end of Brown Street.
Continued mowing though out town weekly. Weekly watering of trees planted in last two years.

MEMORIALS-Audrey Maskery

A Crabapple 'Royal Raindrop' tree in memory of Pat Deely has now been planted by Stadler, close to Dorsey Street.

PLANNING COMMISSION – John McClelland

Peter Nagrod was elected as chairman

Building Permit Applications:

- 203 Second Ave – Modified footprint of rear portion of home (smaller square footage) approved
- 415 Center St – Outdoor kitchen/grill and fireplace approved
- 117 Washington Grove Ln – Ramp approved

Permanent Easement Applications:

- 409 5th Ave –Easement request sent to TC for approval. Town attorney will need to review as specific “easement property markers” were not established.

Block 11 Surveys:

The block corner markers have been established (by Snyder) however, the associated paperwork has yet to be received. The five potentially impacted property owners (whose rear lot lines face the 5' wide public access area) will meet with the PC. The height of fences facing this unique “5' wide access lane” will also be addressed.

MCCATHRAN HALL – John McClelland

- Hall rental procedures are under review for potential clarification. The recording of hall rentals is to be moved to a universal format (excel spread sheet?) for accounting purposes.
- Haley McClelland has submitted her notification of resignation to be effective in August, 2015. Steps to find a replacement have begun.

ROADS & WALKWAYS – Bud O'Connor

Further discussions were had with Reverend Eunjoung Joo of the WG Methodist church on street signage. I believe there is a clear understanding of WG ordinances in this case; I suspect the matter is solved for the time being.

Being contacted by a resident on crosswalks I asked Audrey (maintenance) if we could renew the crosswalk on Grove Road by the tennis courts.

WEBSITE – Bud O'Connor

Marida Hines organized a website meeting late in the month, along with Marida, myself, and five other town residents participated in this organizational meeting. Two more similar gatherings

will be had to refine these findings, along with helping with the graphical look and operation of the site.

RECREATION – Bud O’Connor

Rain or heavy weather played a role with Music Weekend and the Fourth of July celebration this year. Due to the weather Music Weekend performances were largely indoors and the Fourth of July moved to be celebrated on the 5th.

Recreation has changed from meeting every three months to every two months. The change was made mid this year. A decision that came out of a recent Rec meeting was any former Mayor's memorial will be considered an official event, meaning the committee will supply refreshments.

WOODS GROUP – Greg Silber

The Group's July and August meetings have been cancelled. Regular monthly meetings will resume on Monday 7 September.

The Group still seeks a chair or co-chairs -- and new members to assist with the important work of this group are always welcome.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

We expect Parkton Woodland Services to submit, for review, its draft forestry management contract report in the coming months.