

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS OCTOBER 2015

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION – Georgette Cole

Projects: Jeff & Arlene McCrehan (410 Brown Street) submitted a building permit application for the installation of roof solar panels. The application included detailed drawings & plans for 18 panels to be installed flush to the roof on the backside of the house facing Railroad Street. The HPC reviewed and approved the plans, as submitted, and the review will be sent to the Planning Commission for their meeting in October.

Archives: Wendy Harris summarized work from the Computer Guru Meeting. She will continue assembling a draft document with their recommendations. Further discussion on the Record Management Plan will be postponed until the October meeting so Gail Littlefield and Pat Patula can present a report from their visit to the State Archives on August 20th.

Bulletin Material: Mimi reported that a few more myths & facts on old windows will be published in the next Town bulletin.

SHADY GROVE CROSSING – Georgette Cole

Nothing to report.

WASHINGTON GROVE MEADOW CONSERVATION PARK – Georgette Cole

The mow/bush hog effort occurred and a large swath of the hedgerow area along Ridge Road is now clear. Regular trail mowing will continue until the grass stops growing.

MAPLE LAKE – Alison Faupel

Nothing to report

PLAYGROUNDS – Alison Faupel

Nothing to report

SAFETY – Alison Faupel

Nothing to report

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION - Audrey Maskery

Pepco topped and removed debris of dead oak on Grove road. Three smaller trees were also removed at request of F&B, the trees (victims of Pepco pruning earlier in year).

Trees purchased for our annual Fall planting:-

- 1 Pin Oak – Chestnut Avenue
- 2 Black Gum – Hickory Road; Zoe Park
- 3 White Oak – Acorn Lane; Grove Road; Chestnut Avenue
- 1 Red Oak – Chapel Park
- 1 Red Maple – Chapel Park
- 1 London Plane tree – Woodward Park
- 1 White Swamp Oak – Maple Road

The listed trees are all native, the Town will receive coupons from State and County governments to offset final costs.

We are also considering purchasing Paw Paw to be used as understory trees and wild life food.

MAINTENANCE - Audrey Maskery

Work on playground area: - digging out drainage, placing weed cloth, gravel, and chemical free wood chips, reinstalling play equipment.

Checked roads and placed asphalt patches in holes on Grove Road and Brown Street. Cleaned and re-surfaced sediment pond at end of Brown Street.

Equipment serviced ready for the fall leaf pick-up; serviced town truck. Supervised removal of Mile a Minute from East Woods.

Cut grass and cleared gravel off roads in preparation for town sports on Labor Day. Cut bamboo encroaching on path by Maintenance garage; trimmed entrances to town. Watered trees planted in last two years.

MEMORIALS - Audrey Maskery

Nothing to report

PLANNING COMMISSION – John McClelland

Building Permits:

- 410 Brown Street – solar panels approved
- 401 Brown Street – potential purchasers were provided general building permit guidelines with a recommendation to meet with the HPC for a planned building addition. Steve Werts volunteered to answer questions regarding other ordinances if necessary.
- The location of a previously approved fence situated on 409 5th Ave and the accuracy of the associated boundary survey was questioned by the owners of 407 5th Avenue. Since this issue does not involve Town property the PC suggested that the two differing surveyors meet to establish the correct property location. The PC will closely examine all surveys related to the current 409 5th Ave easement application.
- Larry Plumber will be contacted to perform foundation inspections for 203 Second Ave. One for the dwelling itself and a second for the easement/ porch.

Block 11 Fence Ordinance:

A preliminary draft to Article VII Section 3.327 to permit 6 ft fences facing the public walkway (specific to the rear of the five properties located in Block 11) was presented. Additional ordinance adjustments (i.e. definition of bay window etc.) will be added due to procedure and cost concerns. Legal advice will also be sought from the Town attorney when the ordinance is closer to completion.

Block 11 Survey: The Commission finalized a letter to the residents of #6 The Circle, #8 The Circle, 203 2nd Avenue, 315 Grove Avenue and 319 Grove Avenue concerning the equal access to these properties, encroachments on Town land and the removal of private items from Town land. The letter will go out ASAP.

- Letter from Maggie Range (#8 The Circle): A brief review of the 2003 building permits, construction plans, stop work order, “bay window” extension, square footage documents, and house location survey with all property setbacks was done. The Commission also reviewed the letter and documents from the house file. A set of steps (on Town land) and portico were built without a building permit by the owner of 8 The Circle and discovered with the results of the Block 11 survey. All adjoining property owners will be asked to

move landscaping features, ponds, fences, structures etc. from Town land so a public walkway can be re-established thus providing access to the five (5) affected properties.

House Files: 37 homes are completed. An excel spread sheet is also being developed for future analysis and comparative purposes. The next meeting is October 26th.

MD Department of Planning: The Town's Master Plan must be reviewed every 10 years. Maryland has provided an in depth check list to assist with the process.

MCCATHRAN HALL – John McClelland

- Summer in parks “stuff” to be moved out of McCathran Hall in next few weeks.
- The Handicapped Lift was approved by the State inspector. Steve Werts to install motion detector for light. The emergency switch had a label attached. Although the lift has been greased by Steve Werts it still makes some noise so the side wheels will be dismantled, lubricated and reattached.

ROADS & WALKWAYS – Bud O'Connor

Nothing to report at this time. I plan to push for in-town pothole repair prior to cold weather taking hold.

WEBSITE – Bud O'Connor

The web committee is set to meet later this week. The hope is only minor tweaks will be needed before we can do a full-on test of the site in preparation for its release on-line soon after.

RECREATION – Bud O'Connor

Nothing to report

WOODS GROUP – Greg Silber

The Woods Group met on Monday 5 October and discussed progress in removing ‘mile-a-minute’ patches, the Parkton Woodland Services draft forestry stewardship plan for the Town's woods, and the Group's membership, among other things. Several large ‘mile-a-minute’ stands have been removed by a contractor. Nice work by all involved! No additional invasive removal is planned for the foreseeable future, but may resume again in the spring.

In late September, members of the Woods Group and others met with Bill Bond of Parkton Woodland Services to provide feedback on the draft forest stewardship report. Comments on the report are being compiled and will be forwarded to Mr. Bond. We hope to have a final report by early- or mid-November.

The next meeting of the Woods Group is Monday 2 November, 7:30PM.

CONTRACTS – Greg Silber

We are in the process of renewing our contract with GreenEarth for another year of leaf removal. We have discussed a plan with GreenEarth to collect leaf piles in a systematic way throughout the Town – namely, starting first with streets (for safety), then walkways, working from one end of the Town to the other -- so piles are (hopefully) not neglected for long periods.