

Village of Ardentown  
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on Monday, November 13, 2017. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

***In Attendance:***

- |                      |                         |                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Annie Gutsche     | 15. Terri Hansen        | 29. Barbara Mondzelewski  |
| 2. Joan Fitzgerald   | 16. Andrew Hansen       | 30. Steven Curley         |
| 3. Beverley Fleming  | 17. Katrina Nelson      | 31. Christiana Dobrzynski |
| 4. Steve Cohen       | 18. Pat Lane            | 32. Shelley Robyn         |
| 5. Sandra McCormeck  | 19. Sara Stevenson      | 33. Oliver Gutsche        |
| 6. John McCormeck    | 20. Hans Francke        | 34. Elaine Schmerling     |
| 7. Anne P. Lutz      | 21. Hetty Francke       | 35. Haley Fogiel          |
| 8. Pat Phalan        | 22. Maureen Gordon      | 36. Connor Fogiel         |
| 9. Shari Phalan      | 23. Sue Cherrin         | 37. Joan W Phibbs         |
| 10. Rusty Hoegger    | 24. Lisa Wilson Riblett | 38. Edmund Bischoff       |
| 11. Hardy Hoegger    | 25. Janna Scheflen      | 39. Patricia Hannigan     |
| 12. Maura Lynch      | 26. Kate Donovan        | 40. Cindy Cohen           |
| 13. Barbara Conway   | 27. Tim Donovan         | 41. Alison Wakelin        |
| 14. Betty Ann Themal | 28. Harry Themal        |                           |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 2017 meeting were approved with following correction: Eliza West moved in. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Terri Hansen reporting for Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$ 39,103.19
Municipal Street Aid:	\$ 10,076.55
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$ 23,488.45</u>
<b>Total Funds Available:</b>	<b>\$ 72,668.19</b>

**Total expenses since September: 17,576.76- trash, snow retainer, all community donations, salary, paths, memorial garden, supplies, compost, landscaping**

**Total income- 1,235.09- Verizon, interest and \$750 donation**

**AUDIT REPORT:** Steven Curley reporting: all books are in good order and there were no discrepancies or adjustments.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Alison Wakelin reporting:

Haley and Connor Fogel moved in to 1501 The Mall on Aug 30 2017.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE:** Betty Ann Themal reporting: The post and rail fence has been repaired or replaced. It is looking great. There is a planned planting in the Spring.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Andrew Hansen reporting:

**Ardentown Paths Project with WILMAPCO:**

The Paths Plan document has been completed. Andrew Hansen, Planning Committee chairperson, read the following statement:

On behalf of the Ardentown residents on the paths steering committee, the Ardentown Planning Committee, and speaking also for myself personally, thank you to WILMAPCO, and to Bill Swiatek and Jacob Thompson specifically, for your leadership and hands-on support to create the Ardentown Paths Plan document. You have helped Ardentown to identify priorities and potential resources for the network of paths that runs within our community and throughout the surrounding woodland areas, without sacrificing the unique character of our village.

Your expert advice, careful attention to community input, and succinct planning document will serve as a guide for community effort as we go about the work of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the paths. We regard Ardentown today as highly walkable – with the benefit of your help, we expect it to become even more so. You have our sincerest thanks.

## **PUBLIC WORKS:**

### **Roads:**

Speed bumps have been painted. A yellow line will be painted at the top of the Candlelight parking lot at Millers Road to keep people from accidentally parking in the road. The turn-around on Brae Road has been cleared of debris and pruned back. The gutter is now functioning. The Parking Ordinance has been posted on the bulletin board and a notice has been placed in the Arden Page directing individuals to the Ardentown website to view the ordinance.

### **Signs:**

The second batch of wooden road signs have been picked up; kudos to Chris Monson for installing them quickly. DCI was notified that they have “Appletree” as one word instead of two so they will correct it. They are currently working on the final batch of signs.

### **Snow/sand:**

The snow contract is being finalized for this winter. Sand barrels will be ordered shortly.

### **Misc:**

The hedge in front of the carriage house has been pruned back. This should help with visibility on Millers.

### **Paths:**

The 4 x 4's on the path behind the Cohen's have been replaced and wood chips put down. The path was also be cleared of overgrowth.

**PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:** A proposal was made that instead of a committee for the Playground, the Public Works committee would schedule two work days a year and arrange a task list for each day, inviting the community into participate. Concern was raised from the floor over who would be responsible for the safety checks, ordering mulch, repairing equipment, etc. A request was made for a volunteer from the community for a new Chair of Playground Committee, no volunteers from the floor. Tim Donovan volunteered that he would be more available for work days in the Spring. Issue was tabled until the February town meeting.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Pat Lane reporting: A broken sewer line, in the woods behind a leasehold, has been repaired by the county. .

**BUZZ COMMITTEE:** Beverley Fleming has retired from her position as Building Manager after 14 years of dedicated service, many as a volunteer. There has been no announcement from the Committee about a path forward and Terri Hansen, Ardentown representative, anticipates that there will be some talk at the next meeting on Monday, November 21 at 7:30 pm at the Buzz.

At the last meeting, community events were discussed in more detail. The current regular schedule includes Yoga, Strength and Mobility, Art on the Town, and the Coffeehouse. We were given rough information on costs vs donations and in particular the amount needed to subsidize yoga and Strength and Mobility classes, about \$2000-3000. Therefore, Ardentown's \$1400 contribution to BWVC community events provides about 50% of the subsidy.

Residents are encouraged to attend the ongoing community events and programs.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Annie Gutsche reporting: Nothing to report.

**ELECTIONS:**

**Town Secretary, Terri Hansen- re-elected unanimously**

**Town Treasurer, Holly Custer- re-elected unanimously**

**Planning Committee-** Andrew Hansen and Holly Custer stepping down. Many thanks to them both for their work. Particular thanks to Drew Hansen for shepherding the Paths Plan and the creation of the Ardentown Website.

**Planning Committee, Joan W. Phibbs ad Hugh Phibbs - elected unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

The meeting was asked to verify how best to notify of events, meetings, and news. A show of hands indicated that many residents relied on Facebook for information. There was limited use of NextDoor and the Ardentown website, and a few residents are not online. Red signs for town meeting were the most useful reminder.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen