

DRAFT

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, November 12, 2018. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Annie Gusche | 12. Tim Donovan | 23. Lisa Wilson Riblett |
| 2. Rusty Hoegger | 13. Katrina Nelson | 24. Shari Phalan |
| 3. Stuart Craig | 14. Betty Ann Themal | 25. Pat Phalan |
| 4. Mhairi Craig | 15. Harry Themal | 26. Janna Scheflen |
| 5. Hardy Hoegger | 16. Pat Lane | 27. Oliver Gutsche |
| 6. Dotty Verne | 17. Joan Fitzgerald | 28. Cheryl Regan |
| 7. Barbara Conway | 18. Suzanne Cherrin | 29. Christiana Dobrzynski |
| 8. Terri Hansen | 19. Alison Wakelin | 30. Joe Grippe |
| 9. Anne P. Lutz | 20. Elaine Schmerling | 31. Maureen Gordon |
| 10. Shelley Robyn | 21. Barbara Mondzelewski | 32. Chris Monson |
| 11. Katie Donovan | 22. Steve Cohen | 33. Terry Harvey |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

Special Guest- Tom Hornung, Board member of Candlelight Theater. Mr. Hornung shared plans to add to the building for additional storage, squaring off the barn and siding it to look like the rest of the building. Bob Kelly presented further details, including drawings of the plans to extend the building over existing footers on the rear of the building. This would allow for more storage and they could eliminate the POD they are currently using for storage. From the street, the building would look the same. This will not impact any paths, trees or the paddock wall, only weeds.

The board of the Candlelight has received plans and is ready to solicit bids with plans for construction to happen after the Spring show. Construction is anticipated to be very simple and swift.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 2018 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- Terri will add the DeIDOT website regarding upcoming construction to the minutes
- Names of the new residents

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting:

Lauren Burslem- (November 1) 1705 Harvey Road (Sara B and Faith)

Kyle Stewart-(October 1) 2305 Loreley Lane

Miranda and Josh Streeter (May 31) 2301 Sconset Road

2312 New Lease/residents

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts: \$43,292.23

Municipal Street Aid: \$22,023.79

Arden Building and Loan: \$19,965.18

Total Funds Available: \$85,281.20

AUDIT: Steven Curley reporting: Thanks to those who helped to complete the audit. Books are in good order.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting: Nothing to report. Cheryl Regan added that Frank Malone saw some vines and he cleared them.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Nothing to report. The Chair requested that residents interested in the committee please contact the next Town Chair.

PUBLIC WORKS: Cheryl Regan reporting:

Signs: We will be trying to reinstall two metal sign posts in the near future. One “no dumping” at the turn-around near the bottom of Brae Road, and the other one a “no stopping, standing parking” across from 2206 Sconset.

Roads: Hal has been asked to fill a few potholes.

Misc:

- The snow contract has been received and signed.
- Hal replaced the town mailbox with a used one – the old one was smashed by a tree limb. The replacement mailbox was spray painted and numbers attached.
- Chris Monson has volunteered to install a small book sharing kiosk in Ardentown if we can find a suitable location.

Natural lands:

1) Street trees – We planted 5 new young dogwoods: 3 at the end of The Mall where a tree came down, and 2 on East Mall.

2) Compost Area – The first 3 bins are ready to take leaves; we ask people to walk in, not drive, as it is so wet that walking is hard and trucks continue to drive in. An informal survey was taken of compost area users, and only a handful of people use it for either a place for their leaves or for finished compost. Should we continue to do this? This should be discussed at a future meeting.

3) Paths – Chris Monson has continued working on paths in Sunnyside and removing downed trees. He has cleared a new “rim” path along the rim overlooking the ROW tracks.

4) Invasive work – Thanks to a great new helper, Nickia, we have been madly working on clearing invasives everywhere we can get while the weather lasts. Worked on Sunnyside (more trash & glass), The Glen, Ardentown Woods (some clearing off Appletree Ln. entrance). We are also spreading some native seeds and planted 3 buttonbushes at Bickhart property, and another at compost wet meadow area. Nick Liberman has helped with chain-sawing.

5) Lanternfly - On October 25, two of these invasive pests were found on the ridge over railroad tracks, inside Sunnyside, ½ way down on the west side (I have GPS coordinates) and reported to Delaware Dept. of Agriculture (DDA). The lanternfly is a highly invasive bug that eats a wide variety of trees, including fruit and walnut trees, oaks, maples and others. Its preferred host plant is Tree of Heaven (TOH) which is all along the rail lines including in Sunnyside. DDA officials are trying to work with CSX on this issue.

Following the advice of the DDA, we have taken steps to kill 7 large TOH trees inside Sunnyside, and create “trap trees” to trap and kill just the bugs that feed on them on 11 more of the remaining TOH trees inside Sunnyside (similar to Advantage, to kill fleas and ticks on your dog). A Claymont neighbor, Bob Dolan of Rainbow Tree Care (sells chemicals and equipment and trains businesses in tree care) has offered to volunteer his time, but charge us for the product, to be applied May or June.

We are asking residents, especially those on the east side of Sconset, to look on and under all smooth surfaces for egg masses and destroy and report them if found. You all should also be on the lookout for TOH seedlings and remove if possible. DDA will provide us with sticky tape to catch first nymphs, and then the large bugs on trees in your yards if you will report, and they specifically asked if we can put on the remaining TOH trees in Sunnyside.

A resident thanked Elaine Schmerling for her work on the paths. He feels that we should look at who would use the paths if they were in better repair. Wood chips were applied and but that has not helped. Additionally, he asks that residents use the paths more. Elaine responded that she is currently focused on the invasives and would love someone to step up and take the paths.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Annie Gutsche reporting: One fence post needs to be replaced.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal, Joan Fitzgerald and Pat Lane reporting:

- The lease for the theater is up at the end of the year; the trustees and the Board of the Candlelight have agreed to extend the lease for five years.
- Shared letter from George Loudon (posted on NextDoor) regarding tree removal at Ivy Gables.
- The Loudons plan to start a website that will inform the community about construction and progress. Construction may begin in February and is expected last 12-18 months. The community will be invited to the groundbreaking.
- Going forward, any official documentation regarding Ivy Gables will be signed by all three trustees.

Question: Is Harry Themal the conduit for information and contact? Swiss Lane residents have tried repeatedly to contact George Loudon for information and have not had any response. Traffic on Swiss Lane continues to be a very big problem, speed and volume.

Answer: Harry responded that Mr. Loudon has previously discussed re-paving Swiss Lane, and he didn't see why a speed bump couldn't be part of that work. They have not specifically discussed, but he will bring it up.

Question: How will we know when the web site is active?

Answer: We can post to NextDoor, Facebook and any emails we have.

Question: If we have issues or questions regarding Ivy Gables, should residents contact Harry?

Answer: Yes.

PAT LANE- Several trees have been taken care of.

JOAN FITZGERALD- Please let Joan know if you order a trash or recycling can, because it will be delivered to her home.

Comment from resident- There are still issues with Waste Management and using the Ardentown account number; customer service does not recognize number. The confusion seems to come from this being a community contract, they do not see us as individuals. Annie will contact the company to clarify.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Shari Phalan reporting- Questions from the BWVC Committee:

Defining Ardentown's Representative to BWVC's committee responsibilities:

What is the role of the Ardentown BWVC committee representative for the Village of Ardentown?

What information is this position expected to share with the community and what is the forum

for sharing information?

It is felt that it would be most efficient and effective to have this non-voting role be a two year term to coincide with the Arden committee elections in March of each year.

PPP-Made over \$7,000; first year for female wizards; Appreciation party to thank volunteers

Program: Continuing: Art on the Town, Mobility Class; art studio, yoga.

Community events: four

Building Manager Position - still open

Website - Larry Strange migrating new site; rentals will be able to be scheduled directly on-line

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen reporting- ACRA Display at the museum is lovely and all are encouraged to take the opportunity to visit the museum and see all the wonderful memories of ACRA, an organization unique to the Ardens.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting:

- No update from DelDOT on the I-95 construction, perhaps job is still out for bid. Given the time of year, seems likely that construction will not begin until next year.
- On November 15 at 9 am Delaware State Police Troop One will have a representative at Einstein Bagels to talk to community members about concerns. If someone is available, it would be appreciated if you could attend and bring Harvey Road traffic up.
- A resident suggested adding a speed limit sign on Harvey Road, as you enter Ardentown. Public works will check the current signs.
- Follow up item- At the last town meeting, Barbara Conway had proposed a committee that would serve as a liaison to the Trustees. Annie has looked at our bylaws; establishment of such a committee would require a formal change our bylaws. The next chair would have to spearhead this. Secondly, the Trustees are not a government entity and therefore, are not subject to the same requirements (FOIA, etc). In talking to the Trustees there is no objection to meeting and talking, but the Trustees would encourage a call or an email to keep lines of communication open.
- Thank you for being such a good place to be a government representative. She has enjoyed her time as Chair.

ELECTIONS:

- Town Chair- Alison Wakelin has agreed to stand as Town Chair. She has served in this position before and did a fine job. No nominations from the floor. Moved that Alison Wakelin be nominated, seconded. Unanimously elected
- Planning Committee- Janet Cosgrove is willing to serve again. Once vacant position, no nominations from the floor. Janet is elected unanimously for a new term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Siegfried, newly elected Representative for the 7th District: The Ardens are right in the heart of the southern portion of the 7th District. Ray welcomes input from residents on what we are thinking/feeling is important to us for the district. He has heard similar concerns regarding Harvey Road from the Ardens and Claymont and is interested in helping to find a solution. A resident commented that there should be a green arrow at the Sconset Road intersection.

A resident on Millers Road advised the town that the one way from Harvey Road to the Mall is largely ignored. Many of the offenders are commercial, not residential. Could we add signage? Public works agreed to add a "One Way" sign near the Harvey Road entrance.

Christiana Dobrynzki- Recent archivist visitors to the Ardens enjoyed their visit to the community.

Many heartfelt thanks to Annie Gutsche for her service as Town Chair. Ovarions all around.

Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen