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, September 16, 2019' Alison Wakelin, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

1. Cheryl Regan
2. Page Dywer
3. Anne P Lutz
4. Beverley Fleming
5. Joan Fitzgerald
6. Harry Themal
7. Dotty Verne
8. Alison Wakelin
9. Betty Ann Themal
10. Janet Cosgrove
11. Cortney Hayflinger
12. Mharhi Craig
13. Stuart Craig
14. Pat Lane
15. Lindsey Sherwood
16. Beverly Bizup Hawkins
17. Lisa Wilson Riblett
18. Joan Phibbs
19. Hugh Phibbs
20. Lee Painter
21. Joe Painter
22. Annie Gutsche
23. Oliver Gutsche
24. Suzanne Cherrin
25. Elaine Schmerling
26. Steven Curley
27. Judith H Glenn
28. Stephanie Lombardo
29. Sharon Kleban
30. Janna Scheflen
31. Terry Harvey
32. Drew Hansen
33. Barbara Conway
34. Tom Wheeler GUEST

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Alison Wakelin, Town Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 2019 meeting were approved.

SECOND VOTE TO CHANGE THE BYLAWS: Anne P Lutz- what are the responsibilities and duties?

Janet Cosgrove - A Committee has worked to create a foundation for the Assessment Committee. This Committee can serve as a liaison between the Town and the Trustees to help clarify how Land Rent is determined.
Anne P Lutz fears that the Committee will try to override the Trustees. Janet Cosgrove replied No.

In Favor- 26 Opposed-0 Abstentions- 4

Electing the Committee- Janet Cosgrove, Joe Grippe, Page Dwyer elected from the floor by a hand vote. Oliver Gutsche and Stephanie agreed to serve on the budget and audit committees respectively. The chairmen of these committees also serve as ex-officio members of the Assessment Committee.

Ray Seigfried, (D) Representative Delaware 7th District, guest- Delaware only tests 23% of the children for Lead poisoning, of those tested, 2.5% test positive. Money has been allocated to remove the playground equipment on The Green and The Buzz.
Sconset/Harvey intersection work is moving forward soon
Harvey/Marsh intersection is a menace and Ray S. is looking into it.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	$53,278.37
Municipal Street Aid:	$28,206.18
Arden Building and Loan:	$19,965.18
Total Funds Available:	***$101,449.73***

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Books for the Town and the Trustees were found to be in good order

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reporting for Cindy Cohen:

1. First Annual Ardentown Summer Picnic- The Registration Committee was pleased to sponsor our Ardentown Summer Picnic on Sunday, June 23rd on the Pettit Green. The weather was perfect and the unofficial headcount was 80 people in attendance. Thank you for coming and bringing such delectable food! Special thanks to:

- Drew Hansen, our grillmaster, and his lovely assistant, Terri Hansen
- Edmund Bischoff for transportation, equipment, and general support
- All of those who donated coolers, tents,tables and chairs
- Members of the Registration Committee who worked hard to make the afternoon a fun one.

Our expenses were approximately $95, but the Committee is not requesting reimbursement,instead they are donating the costs. We learned a good bit in our first year out, and welcome any feedback as we plan for next year.

2. Recent Leasehold Changes:
    a. Hetty and Hans Francke's leasehold at 2312 The East Mall was transferred to Samantha Smith in June
    b. Pat Lane's little house behind her, at 1508 The Mall, has new tenants as of August, Harry Gryzybowski and Lauren Kratz
    c. The Meyers leasehold at 2305 Brae Road also has new tenants as of August, Kate Maxwell and her two sons, who are 11 and 12 years old.
    d. As of August 15th Richard Cherrin's leasehold at 2305 Orchard Road was transferred to Daniel and Jill Emory. We believe they will not be moving in for a year.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting- Committee members met to assess maintenance needs. We determined the following to be addressed:
English Ivy and wild clematis vines need to be removed from the trees and shrubs.
Low hanging branches on the hemlock and linden trees will be removed.
Most ornamental shrubs need to be pruned.

We will get bids for the tree limb removal. Some work may be done by Hal Goodwin and his crew. We may have to plan for work to be done over a period of time depending on our budget. The ivy and vine removal can be accomplished by helpful volunteers at several "work days." We have set a date for a weekday morning to start attacking vines. We expect to work for about an hour. Please join us Tuesday, Sept 24 at 10 o'clock.

Earlier the month several rails in older parts of fence were replaced.

PUBLIC WORKS: Cheryl Regan reporting

Roads:

The culvert wall on Orchard Road was repaired by Rich Cropper. The repair seems stable at this time and we will keep monitoring it.

The speed bumps were painted, and look nice. Road repairs were completed on Loreley Lane and The Mall.

Paths:

The mulched path from Loreley Lane to Harvey has been cleared of overhanging brush. We have asked Ron's Tree Service to drop some chips when he gets some decent ones so that the path can be refurbished.

The Station path has been cleared by Chris Monson and Hal Goodwin did some additional work on it.

Awaiting quotes from Richard Cropper for re-doing: bridge into Glen from Compost, and steps down Appletree (old RR ties are rotting).

Natural lands:

- **Tree Grant -** Sent out disbursement request for tree grant. Expect payment soon. Have spent a lot of time pulling MAM around trees in Sunnyside and pulling back to sides; 9 of the 12 trees and the area look pretty good. Many native plants are "free" and have come back, including milkweed and others. Have a few replacement trees to add. Most other areas the trees look pretty good, thank you Terry Harvey, Allan Kleban, Nick Liberman and Beverly Hawkins for helping to water!
- **Natl Lands –** Continue working with Redtail for MAM, stiltgrass and general invasives pulling; some teen help this summer helped stretch the budget thinking of a summer internship for next summer. Lookout for and remove some of these invasives that are blooming now, including also porcelain berry (looks like wild grape but berries are pastel and multi-colored, don't let birds eat!) and Japanese Virgins' bower, or sweet autumn clematis. Please put flowers/seeds in yard waste bins try to stop the spread. (Samples at table).
- **Hike to these main restoration areas –** Sunday, October 6, 2 pm, meet at Slattery's. See plantings in this area, walk back out to Glen plantings below Appletree, then walk in woods to past restoration areas (below Phibbs). Short hike can end there. For more adventurous and able people, will then walk down to creek and cross over under RR tracks to Sunnyside, and hike up to the new tree planting spot in the MAM area.

- **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF) –** We have trapped and killed over 110 SLF's in Sunnyside. Are many more. Sporadic sightings in the village, they are here. Will get worse each year until they develop the fungus (working on 2 that look promising). Please look for and destroy egg cases this winter (see my board and take a card). DE used up funds for SLF control and didn't get to us, went S to N (to protect the farms). For the cost of treating ONE tree as a trap tree, hired Weeds Inc to basal-bark treat 57 large Ailanthus (AA) trees in Sunnyside - they were also suckering over huge areas, were starting to take over 2/3 of the tract (map), we NEED to get them out to save our native trees and try to reduce the SLF population (which prefers to breed on SLF). Didn't worry about "trap trees" (injecting expensive insecticide, the one used for flea and tick control in pets) into live trees to keep, as a trap to kill them) because of the huge numbers of AA trees on the RR tract. State thinks there's a chance of working with them on a test area next year stay tuned.
- **COMPOST AREA –**We weed-whacked the area. Is a maintenance issue, but we've planted and allowed natives to grow and is good wildlife habitat. Considering consolidating and planting one tree in one bin this year? Springtime high rains gouged out areas around and behind the bins, was standing water to left of bin (where is marking from water co), I had to constantly go and throw Mosquito bits. The water should be drained to creek, Trustees could hire Cropper to do this. It dried out this summer and is better now.
- **Wet area behind Slattery's**
- Peter Slattery & I met w/2 DNREC Wetland scientists for advice on ameliorating the situation of the out-pipe dumping huge amounts of water into the woods next to and behind his house. They encouraged us to continue planting wet-loving plants and channeling the water to flow as Peter has done to reduce the mosquito problem, and they are trying to help us find other measures to protect the forest (there is another huge dead tree next to Peter's house in addition to those below).
- **Ardentown Lands off Marsh** – Janna Scheflen & I have met monthly to take out invasives (including the deadly poison hemlock) from the former Bickhart leasehold, and encourage natives to grow, creating wildlife habitat where was mostly invasives. Looking better but could use help! Also we walked through the extensive lands up to County land, very large area. Lots of trash dumped on S side, not sure of the boundaries. Would be worth meeting with neighbors who back up to these lands to encourage them to help us preserve the forest and not dump trash & grass clippings into.

TRUSTEES REPORT:

- George Loudon says construction specs have been completed for the extension of Ivy Gables. Fire Marshall\ has reviewed them and after his approval it will be submitted to the county for final approval. Contractors' bids are being considered and at least one will visit the site soon.
- Attorneys Ted Rosenthal and Denise Nordheimer are in negotiations about the fire-damaged Richardson leasehold, which will be sold and the house likely demolished.
- We had three fires in Ardentown in which the Claymont Fire Company responded. It's important that each leasehold consider a contribution to the fire company. The Trustees make an annual contribution. Please also make sure your insurance is current.
- Complaints continue about a leasehold that looks abandoned. The leaseholder, with whom the trustees and town chair have spoken repeatedly, again said something will be done.. A final warning letter has been sent before the County is asked to step in.
- A historic marker for "The Harvey Barn" has been approved for the Candlelight Theatre with state funds coming through Sen Cathy Cloutier. The marker may be placed in November on the theater's 50th anniversary.
- The tangled mess between the Lockerman and Burslem leaseholds was cleared.
- Joan Fitzgerald has two Waste Management trash cans that were delivered last week. Please let Joan know if one is yours.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: respectfully submitted by Shari Phalan, Read into the record by Stephanie Lomardo

Peddlars, Potions, and Practitioners held during the Arden Fair
Hosted= 1300 guests
Booths= $5,700
Raffle= $2,810
Total= $8,510 (???)
There was a modest increase of door donation to $2 with children 10 and under free.

Unfortunately there was no Buddhe Brew; Mary Brent Whipple will ask ACRA to brew up some ideas. No Cake Booth, Edmund Bischoff is cooking up some ideas. There were no balloons (helium shortage) and ideas are being conjured for alternative items to sell as a moving feature (ie flags, Arden Fair logo on a stick, Arden pennant)

Parking on the Sherwood Green- It was announced by Pat Toman at the Coffeehouse that all of the Green would be rehabilitated this season and would be unavailable for parking for a long duration. The Chairman will inquire why it can't be staged to allow for some parking.

Our building manager should advise us on the impact to our rental schedule.

BWVC continues to recommend the installation of mesh in the areas used for parking. To date, the mesh seems to be accomplishing the wet ground/mud solution.

Teen ACRA- Meeting Thursdays from 2-4, The Building Manager will clarify if this schedule will be moving to Sundays in the Fall.

Community Planning's Ad Hoc Transformational Committee- The Community Planning Committee has concerns about creating a policy for renters of "Village Only" meetings and events at the Buzz Building spilling over into other areas. The has to do with the insurance perimeters of Buzz Ware rentals.

Advisory/Registration/Election- There was an election tie between Denis O'Regan and Carolyn Cordivano, meaning that both will serve, unless one of them steps down, or a run-off election will be held in June. Carolyn later stepped down due to personal reasons.

Building Maintenance- Patrick Barry resigned, Jeremy Sheiker took this position.

Coffee House- Coffee House and Art on the Town were on a break for the Summer. BWVC Committee needs to discuss the donation collection process with the Coffeehouse team. The money collected does not usually cover the janitorial services. It needs to be more consistent and more education should be provided to the attendees on what the funds collected are for The Vincents would like to meet with the committee prior to the start of the next season.

The Building Manager also suggested getting a locked collection box for donations. The idea of a general cover charge was discussed.

Mural- Denis met with Linda Celestian regarding the interior mural. Some demolition at the chalkboard will be necessary to accommodate the new mural. Sizing or skim coating of the various surfaces will be necessary to create a smooth, uniform surface for the mural. Projected installation, Spring 2020.

New chairs have been provided to the Buzz. Old chairs donated to St. Patrick's Program.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: nothing to report

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Wakelin reporting:

FEMA - the village needs to have some emergency plans in place. One part of this is to communicate with community members - possibly an email list and a phone tree for those who aren't on email. Janna suggested that there are free apps for cell phones which could be used for this purpose. Janna agreed to confer with Alison to look into this.

ELECTIONS:

Budget- Terry Harvey, Cindy Cohen, and Oliver Gutsche elected.

Registration- Betty Ann Themal is up for reelection- unanimously re-elected.

Audit- Stephanie Lombardo elected to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Hans Francke

NEW BUSINESS:

Steven Curley- There needs to be clarity around trees and leaseholds vs Trust land on Brae Road. Is it the property line, or an easement off the road?

Stuart Craig- Arden Highland Games this Sunday, 1-4pm on the Pettit Green.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen