

Feb 2007
minutes

Village of Ardentown

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

**Monday, May 14, 2007
7:30 pm**

AGENDA (partial)

1. Elections: Audit, Playground, and Public Works and Safety
2. Elections for September: Registration and Budget
- 3 Committee Reports

A quorum is needed at the town meeting, please join us.

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The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 12, 2007. Steve Cohen, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

Attendance

1. Maurisa Byer
2. Enno Krebbers
3. Hardy Hoegger
4. Rusty Hoegger
5. Cheryl Regan
6. Pat Lane
7. Gil Johnston
8. Steve Cohen
9. Sheila Johnston
10. Richard Mondzelewski
11. Barbara Mondzelewski
12. Edmond Bischoff
13. Hans Francke
14. Harry Themal
15. Betty Ann Themal
16. Maureen Gordon
17. Alison Byer
18. Oliver Gutsche
19. Jerome Bischoff
20. Sharon Kleban
21. Joan Fitzgerald
22. Dotty Verne
23. Mary Ann Nelson
24. David Scott
25. Elaine Schmerling
26. Cindy Cohen

Guest: Eileen Butler, DNRC
Office of Nature Preserve

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order by Steve Cohen, Town Chair. Maurisa Byer was introduced at the meeting, as one of two interns. She has been selected by the Community Planning Committee and is beginning her Internship

MINUTES: Approved

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$10,608.95
Municipal Street Aid:	12,245.45
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>21,954.98</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$44,809.38

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT – 2007: Hans Francke, Betty Soloway Smith, Betty Ann Themal, Barbara Mondzelewski, Bob DeNigris
The committee met on January 31st to prepare the 2007 budget.
The income side of the budget includes \$12,000 in Municipal Street Aid, \$10,000 from the Trust, under a Trust grant (includes \$5,000 for snow removal), as well as a Forest Management Grant for a total of \$32,045.

On the expense side, \$12,000 is earmarked for road repair, \$5,000 for snow removal, while contributions local activities are kept constant. Under the Public Works Committee the item "General" has been increased to include funds for the Compost Site. Total expenditures are \$31,245.

This gives us a small surplus of \$800. Copies of the revised and approved Budget are available from the Town Secretary.

Enno Krebbers was elected to serve on the committee – term expires September, 2008.

TRUSTEES' REPORT: Harry Themal

Trustees presented 2006 Actual Expenses and 2007 Budget. Copies were distributed at the meeting. Land rent has been increase 7% due to property and school tax increases. See Bob DeNigris for copy of report.

REGISTRATION REPORT: Sheila Johnston

James Swanson has moved from 2300 Sconset Road (Bob DeNigris's house)

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT: Alison Byer

Maurisa Byer is our first candidate to begin out Internship program. Arden has agreed to allow existing multi domiciles (as approved by the County) New Castle County has form a committee to come up with its own plan to allow a second domicile if current house is on 2 acres and as long as it does not violate any County set backs

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger

Nothing to report

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Elaine Schmerling

Nothing to report

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER REPORT: ^{Beverley} ~~Beverly~~ Fleming has the flu.

Report read by Dotty Verne.

In 2006, we did some painting and remodeling.

We raised over \$7,000 in Funds from Buzz Garage Sale and the Peddlers, Potions and Practitioner's Arden Fair Fund Raider. This also opened the door for many of the participants to become long term renters for 2007. We now have a new Yoga Class, Life Management Series in February and March; Herbal and Nutritional workshops in February and March; a Healing Circle, Massage Therapy and more to come.

We have welcomed the Giant Step YMCA program Monday thru Friday for half days in Room 2 as another longer term rental which has also given us new renters for several other special events and workshops. We continue to be available for the various community meetings, rehearsals, and favorites such as art shows, art class, Tai Chi, the Coffee House, Storytellers, and Trips around the World such as our most recent from Shari Phalan & friends trip to Mongolia. Weekend rentals have been full for January and February.

Your Building Manager keeps very busy. Our custodian, Keith Powell, is doing a wonderful job all with the strong support of the BWVC Committee. The BWVC

Committee is planning a fund raider in May with a Derby Day Theme. More information on that in the upcoming ArdenPage.

We are also putting a new roof on the Buzz in the Spring, as well as replacing some of the windows in the Fall, if not before. We plan to paint the Buzz in the near future, as the present paint job is peeling and discoloring. The first priority is the roof at this time. Please continue to support the BWVC and we always need volunteers. We appreciate your donations.

Rentals and scheduling are handled by Beverly Fleming, check us out on TheArdens.com website.

Alan Kleblan was elected as 2nd representative from Ardentown to the BWVC committee.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Mary Ann Nelson

Signs – New signs installed by the playground and composting site. All the speed bumps were painted but the one on East Mall. Drew Hansen is following up on making sure it gets painted. Road work has made some progress on East Mall.

Snow - So far we have been lucky but it looks like tomorrow we will have to do some major snow removal.

Compost Site - We distributed hundreds of bags of compost this year, compliments of Delaware Solid Waste Authority. We will be getting an estimate to replace the gate. We have a continuing problem with drainage in front of the bins. We have received two estimates to remedy, the drainage for between \$6- 8000. This seems like overkill for the site. We are at capacity. Pat Lane has suggested spending \$300 a year on crushed stone. This will probably be a yearly expense for 3-4 years. She has volunteered to remove some of the soil with a small front end loader.

CEPF Grant: Elaine Schmerling

We have been working on CEPF grant. Hal Goodwin has cut 151 Norway maples from the Glen. (Jan - before this cold snap)! More to go – we have to more cutting days scheduled. We've decided to use volunteer time for the other 2 ivy days, to continue cutting more Norway's. Mary Ann & I (and any others who would like) will also cut the ivy off the remaining trees in the Glen. I'd like to wait for warmer weather, probably NEXT week. Hal also worked one day and cut all the ivy vines up where the fence is to go into the Candlelight parking lot – this was quite a job; those vines were very large & persistent. I'll send in the disbursement request after Hal's remaining two paid days.

We have a new group to help us out: the Singles Volunteer Network has an ivy – removal day scheduled for SUNDAY MARCH 18, from 10-12! They hope to have up to 50 people, and residents of Arden welcome: we have an area deep in the woods up left of the creek on the border of Arden & Ardentown to work on. If this works out I have high hopes for the group! (a fall Norway removal day, at least! – next would be on a Saturday, we couldn't get one to work for March.)

I worked very hard on my talk on the overall forest restoration; I have over 60 slides with photos from the woods in the three Arden's and various plants (natives & invasives)...it has been rescheduled, for Saturday night March 10, 7 pm, Buzz Ware.

We are newly designated a TREE CITY USA by our State Forester complimenting us on our priority to presenting and planting trees.

SUNNYSIDE TRACT VOTE: Eileen Butler, DNREC, Office of Nature Preserve
Eileen gave us an update on dedicating the Sunnyside Tract as a nature preserve. There is already a deed between Ardentown and DelDot for the Sunnyside Tract. The Articles of Dedication has been prepared and still need to go to the Ardentown attorney for review.

Concerns were expressed over the ATV's and unwelcome visitors. We were advised to contact Parks and Recreation Enforcement for any disturbances.

Motion was approved for dedication of the Sunnyside Tract as a nature preserve and be submitted to our attorney for review.

COMCAST VOTE:

Steve Cohen advised 3 free cable/internet connections will be available. They will be in Buzz Ware Village Center, Gild Hall and Candlelight or Archives.

Motion was approved for Steve to sign the 15 year Comcast Franchise Agreement

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Nothing additional to report

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Steve Cohen

Flood Insurance Maps – Ardentown has 3 houses in ^{the} flood zone. The maps are available to review through Steve.

Emergency Response Training – a free 2 hour ERT training is available to the town chair and public works chairs for The Ardens

Welcome to Ardentown Signs – Discuss at the next Town meeting

ELECTIONS:


Memorial Garden: Elected each for a 2 year term –
Gil Johnston, Pat Phillips and Betty Soloway Smith

ELECTIONS – MAY: Archives, Public Works and Safety, Playground, Audit

NEW BUSINESS: Betty O'Regan would like to step down as Town Watch coordinator. This position is paid \$200/mth.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary

Joan Fitzgerald
Ardentown Secretary
2206 Millers Road
Ardentown, DE 19810