

February 2010  
minutes

**Village of Ardentown**  
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975

## **NOTICE**

### **ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre**

**Monday, May 10, 2010  
7:30 pm**

### **AGENDA (partial)**

1. Elections: Audit and Public Works and Safety
2. 1975 Act of Incorporation Update
3. Committee Reports

***Come to Meeting to help us spend \$20,000!***

**A quorum is needed at the town meeting, please come!**  
Light Refreshments

# Village of Ardentown

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The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 8, 2010. Alison Byer, Chair, presiding. **No quorum**

## Attendance

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bob Miller           | 16. Edmond Bischoff             |
| 2. Enno Krebbers        | 17. Beverley Fleming            |
| 3. Joan Fitzgerald      | 18. Janet Cosgrove              |
| 4. Alison Byer          | 19. Sharon Kleban               |
| 5. Betty Ann Themal     | 20. Maura Lynch                 |
| 6. Harry Themal         | 21. Barbara Conway              |
| 7. Bob DeNigris         | 22. Oliver Gutsche              |
| 8. Barbara Mondzelewski | 23. Dotty Verne                 |
| 9. Cindy Cohen          | 24. Paul Romagano, New Resident |
| 10. Steve Cohen         | 25. Lilah Kleban, Intern        |
| 11. Pat Lane            | 26. Nicholas Gutsche, Intern    |
| 12. Sandy Landerl       |                                 |
| 13. Rusty Hoegger       | Guest: Bryon H. Short           |
| 14. Hardy Hoegger       | State Representative            |
| 15. Ann Balogh          |                                 |

**MEETING:** Regular meeting called to order by Alison Byer, Town Chair. Alison introduced special guest Bryon Short, State Representative.

\*Due to the amount of snow received, Bryon was asked if the Town could receive assistance with the cost of the snow removal. Bryon said he would get back to us.

\*Municipal Street Aid – Bryon Short and Cathy Cloutier will commit to providing some funds.

\*Bryon confirmed he will be running for re-election.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting - approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$28,040.16
Municipal Street Aid:	.00
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>25,307.46</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$53,347.62

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Janet Cosgrove reporting  
New Leaseholders: Paul Romagano- 2314 Sconset Road  
Susan Kaye – 1603 (1605 & 1607) Orchard Road  
Roy Jones – 2200 Millers Road  
New Resident: Beverly and Ron Gillis – 2204 Millers Road

**TRUSTEE'S BUDGET/LAND RENT RATE and TRUSTEE'S REPORT:**  
Bob DeNigris presented the Trustee's 2010 Budget. There will be no increase in land rent this year. Copies are available from Bob DeNigris

**BUDGET/ASSESSMENT ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT:** Enno Krebbers reporting  
The Budget for 2010 was presented and opened for discussion.  
Enno recommended a member from Public Works sit in on the meeting, since most of the town funds are used in this area.  
Due to the amount of snow, if the President declares NCC a Federal Disaster area, we could receive up to 75% of the cost of snow removal. Cost of snow removal to date \$2,365  
Beverley Fleming expressed concern with the BWVC donation decreasing from \$700 to \$650 and wished the Town would reconsider.  
Enno also suggested the Committee Chairs bring to the Town meeting any special needs.  
Budget approved as presented. Copies are available from the Town Secretary.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** Rusty Hoegger reporting  
Nothing to report

**BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER:** Beverley Fleming reporting  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Year's Day Brunch was a huge success, once again.  
Rentals have significantly increased for special events, as well as long term rentals. There is not a day or weekend the Buzz does not have a rental.  
There will be a Beach Blast on March 20<sup>th</sup>! This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event with a beach, tropical theme with homemade food and live music. Tickets will include all you can eat and 1 drink.  
New air conditioning, updated electric, updated heating, ceiling fans, and lighting have been the improvements for 2009. We are restoring when we have funds, and we do rely on donations and fundraising. We appreciate the generosity of Ardentown.  
We would like to get the Buzz painted.... We are looking into the best options at this time.  
\*During the Budget report, a request was made to restore the \$50 decrease in the Town's budget. The request was declined. I also noted that Ardencroft donates \$2,000.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT:** Steve Cohen  
Steve announced that Lilah Kleban and Nicholas Gutsche are participating in the Village Internship program.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Pat Lane**

**Paths/Trees/Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling:**

**Tree Planting:** There have been notices that the state WILL be passing through the forestry grants for tree planting. If so, we would like to do one final tree planting grant for now, and fill in the remaining gaps. Everyone can talk to Elaine about where trees are needed (a few more dogwoods on the Mall/area in front as you come off Harvey Road, and a few more big trees on the Petit Green). If it's not too many, maybe we can offer to combine with Arden (they need more big trees on the Green!) - but only if they will take care of supervising/picking up/etc.

**Compost:** Nothing to report.

**Paths:** Nothing to report.

**Roads – Drew Hansen:** Hal Goodwin repaired the pothole on Loreley Rd due to a tree that came down during the snow storm in December. Hal also cleaned up and removed the downed tree.

**Signs – Cheryl Regan:** Last week while during my morning walk, we noticed two of the Petit Green no parking/standing/stopping signs were laying on the ground. Also, I had a call from a Ms. Lutz in reference to the Brae/Mall sign that is hard to read. She stated that people have had a hard time trying to find the road. We cannot put up signs in the cold weather since the ground is frozen. When the weather breaks, there are signs for Brae/The Mall. Also, the One Way sign at Millers Rd and The Mall is down. Again, when the weather permits, it will be put back up.

**Snow/Sand – David Byer:** The sand barrels arrived the day after the last Town Meeting and despite a direct request to DOT workers by Harry Themal to put them on their sides, the DOT people cited some rule or reason for not doing it and suggested putting plastic around the top (which we should probably look into next year). Not having heard of the verbal exchange between the aforementioned parties, I saw that the barrels had been delivered upright and then proceeded to knock them over. The only problem will be righting them sometime before DOT comes to pick them up. There will be a sign-up list for all who wish to participate. This could become a yearly event!

Snow removal was done by Jim Burslem and company from 12/18-12/21. There were a few snow removal requests on East Mall at the bottom. It turns out that cars were parked in the street and the plow couldn't gain entry. Jim brought his loader and cleared it out for no charge to the township. I should add that there's an ordinance about parking in the streets and certainly during the threat of snow leaseholders ought to pay particular attention. My take is fines should be automatic with no warning when public vehicles are barred from doing public service. This could have cost us an additional \$500! Thanks to Jim for his public-mindedness. Charges for snow removal as of January 31, 2010 are: \$2365.00.

Finally, many thanks again to Mike Faella for his efforts with his loader, doing some extra clearing of Sconset Road leading from the Green up to the light at Harvey Rd.

Thank you to Richard Cropper who has also used his plow and scoop loader to clean away the piles of snow which were pushed to the bottom and sides of Sconset. He spent most of Sunday clearing it. It's a big help for all of us.

### **Sunnyside Tract – Barbara Conway**

Late morning on January 22, 2010, I was notified that two men carrying shotguns and dressed in camouflage and with blaze orange vests were observed by an Ardentown resident entering the Sunnyside Tract Nature Preserve. The police were notified, and both a NCC and DE State Police officer responded. The NCC officer interviewed the resident who witnessed the hunters. The DE State police officer left so he "wouldn't duplicate" the NCC officer's work. It was later communicated to me that earlier in the week, the same issue was observed by a different Ardentown resident.

A short while later I reported the incident to DNREC Fish and Wildlife officers. Several officers searched Sunnyside, but no hunters were found. The officers said that in the future, they would respond to similar problems only if Ardentown agreed to prosecute any illegal hunters. The issue was presented to the Ardentown Trustees, since they are the owners of the Sunnyside Tract. DNREC Fish and Wildlife officers will respond to problems requiring law enforcement, i.e. illegal hunting, in the Sunnyside Nature Preserve if they are called.

Contact numbers are: **1-800-523-3336, 302-836-4682 or 302-739-9913.**

Rob Line, DNREC, Division of Fish and Wildlife, was contacted that afternoon regarding the recent reports by at least 2 residents of Ardentown of seeing hunters with guns heading into the Sunnyside Tract. Rob advised that there is currently shotgun deer season open in Delaware, but there is to be no hunting in any parks, including the Sunnyside Nature Preserve, unless specifically organized by DNREC. For example, Rob said that there is limited hunting allowed in White Clay Creek State Park as part of the current deer season. As we were talking, Rob pulled a map of the Sunnyside Tract up on his computer and commented that there is a county wide law in New Castle County stating that there is to be no hunting of any kind within 200 yards of a county residence. Rob said that in looking at the map, it was obvious that there was no area of Sunnyside that would accommodate firearm hunting under that law. Rob said that if the two observed hunters were licensed, they should be well trained in knowing this law and should realize that Sunnyside is an inappropriate hunting place. He was very supportive of Wildlife Officer involvement with this issue. Rob said that if we did see a need/desire to have hunting in Sunnyside, a bow season for deer, organized by DNREC, would be the only applicable type allowed.

### **Town Watch - Holly Custer**

The problem of unauthorized parking still continues and is causing problems with trash pick-up and snow removal. As previously stated, Ardentown Ordinance 91-1, dated February 9, 2004 in accordance with Delaware House Bill No. 172 passed July 25, 2003 states:

**Section 1,** "There shall be no parking on the roads or greens of Ardentown."

**Section 2,** "Every leaseholder in Ardentown shall provide space on the leasehold and off the roads or greens of Ardentown to accommodate every vehicle regularly using the leasehold."

**Section 5,** "Violation of Section 1 shall be punishable by a fine of \$10 for each offense."

**Section 6,** "Violation of Section 2 shall be punishable by a fine of \$100 for each complaint."

**Playground:** Nothing to report.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Alison Byer

There is an Energy Efficient Grant (Green stimulus \$20,000) available which will take some time to put together and we are working with Arden and Ardencroft on the project.

DE League of Local Government is meeting February 25, 2010 in Dover  
CCOBH General Meeting will be held April 8, 2010

**ELECTIONS :**

Memorial Gardens Committee: Elected for a 2 year term  
*Rusty Hoegger and Betty Ann Themal*

Archives Committee: Elected for a 2 year term  
*Betty Solway Smith and Katrina Nelson*

**ELECTIONS – MAY:** Public Works and Safety Committee and Audit

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Harry Themal on the 1975 Act of Incorporation


Ardentown boundaries now include the Sunnyside Tract

It is also suggested we change the current term of election of our Town positions of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer from a 1 year term to a 2 year term. We will also need to decide the maximum times the Chair can be consecutively elected.

**Good and Welfare:** Hardy Hoegger expressed a special ‘thank you’ to Jenny Montgomery, our mail carrier, for delivery the mail during the snow storm. She has become a special friend to our Town.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joan Fitzgerald  
Secretary