

Village of Ardentown

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922

Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30pm on Monday, February 11, 2013. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Enno Krebbers | 10. Anne Lutz | 18. Alison Wakelin |
| 2. Beverley Fleming | 11. Barbara | 19. Jen Curley |
| 3. Terri Hansen | Mondzelewski | 20. Maureen Gordon |
| 4. Drew Hansen | 12. Gil Johnston | 21. Shelley Robyn |
| 5. Betty Ann Themal | 13. Joan Fitzgerald | 22. Sandy Landerl |
| 6. Harry Themal | 14. Hardy Hoegger | 23. Annie Gutsche |
| 7. Edmund Bischoff | 15. Rusty Hoegger | 24. Oliver Gutsche |
| 8. Pat Lane | 16. Hans Franke | 25. Sandie Cooper |
| 9. Cheryl Regan | 17. Joy Mulholland | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Enno Krebbers, Town Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 12, 2012 meeting were approved, as written with no correction

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EDENROCK OWNERS: Harry introduced the Lowdens, who have bought Edenrock. George Lowden came forward to address the meeting. His company is in the process of renaming the facility and distributed the new name and logo- Ivy Gables is the current choice.

Timetable: Work has begun on the inside, pulling carpet, and other renovations. Once weather warms, outside work will begin. They are hoping for an end of May opening. They are working with one of the original architects to assist.

Ultimately they do plan to expand.

No work has begun on interviews or staffing. That should happen in perhaps 45 days. Website should be in 30 days, will be used to keep people up to date.

Assisted living and independent living is the current focus, with secure memory care to come in the future. George expects an older and active group of residents

The original home is planned to be used for offices and residence, carriage house will be stabilized.

Their philosophy is to make the facility feel more like a bed and breakfast, which has been a popular approach in their PA facility.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Andrew Hansen reporting- The Planning Committee has met a couple of times since the last Town Meeting and have crafted a mission statement to guide their activity going forward. Text of the statement was read and follows:

“The Planning Committee of the Village of Ardentown identifies opportunities to preserve and enhance the lifestyle and overall health of the Village, and to address forces impacting the Village. The committee works with other committees, organizations and individuals to develop proposals that provide to the Village practical options for making best use of those opportunities.”

Initial Project

The committee discussed a number of different possibilities for a first project, and has decided on an inventory and assessment of the paths, woods and greens. The goal for this project is to help the Village identify clearly what we have, the current state of affairs, and prioritize projects for maintaining and/or improving these resources. We also are striving to make this information more easily accessible electronically.

This effort may help to identify paths that have become so overgrown people do not know they exist, which in turn could lead to a clearing effort to improve accessibility throughout the village. The data could also help to inform the creation of a master plan for the woods, pedestrian plans for paths and streets, and more.

We have a follow-up meeting on February 27 where we'll begin scoping out more detail. We expect to work closely with the trustees, the Public Works & Safety committee as well as others who have information and expertise that will be essential to the project's success.

If anyone has knowledge or input to contribute to this or other potential projects of the planning committee, please call committee chair Andrew Hansen at 475-7427 or email andrew_hansen@verizon.net.

County Resources

Committee member and new resident Ben Gruswitz is a planning professional and has been in contact with the New Castle County planning department to identify resources and assistance that may be helpful for the Village and the planning committee. We'll report anything that comes from this in future town meetings.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reporting

One leasehold change: Lot 204 2308 Orchard Road from Carol Lovett to Bernadette and Jerome Donohue.

The Committee and Terri Hansen have met several times to update the resident list and create a database of Ardentown leaseholds and residents

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondelewski reporting

Operating Accounts: 37,541.45

Municipal Street Aid: 9,398.03

Arden Building and Loan: 26,041.00

Total Funds Available: 72,980.51

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Enno Krebbers reporting for Holly Custer. The draft budget presented by the committee was approved without amendment. Anyone who would like a copy may contact Holly Custer.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Hans Franke reporting, Committee looked at the books of the Trustees and the Treasurer. No discrepancies were found.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS: Cheryl Regan reporting

Roads Roads will be checked after February for winter damage. There is a utility pole on a 45 degree angle along the glen by the Phibbs leasehold. Amy Pollock has been asked to help with contacting Delmarva to fix it.

Signs – 15 wooden signs were installed in various locations. A walkthrough in the spring will determine what other wooden signs need addressing. The plan is to hopefully do a background stain on the existing signs without removing them.

The bulletin board cover has been measured and will get prices for a replacement cover.

Snow/sand –The sand barrels arrived in late November and were placed on their sides as requested. A few were righted but were promptly placed on their sides again. No snow plowing has been necessary so far this winter.

Ardentown Natural Lands Steward –

Sunnyside: We have a little funding left from the State Invasives's grant. Greg Gagliano, Red Tail Restoration, is working about once a month, through next fall, on the remainder. We are finding too many seeding invasives in the good area in Sunnyside. The seeding ivy covering the trees off Harvey Rd. (coming off the highway) were removed by the steward and Hal. The ivy will die off in the next few months!

Tax-deductible contributions for ivy or pathwork are always welcome – make them to the Village of Ardentown and write in the byline (Ivy trees) or (Pathwork). It will be put to good use!

Pathwork: Hasn't started yet.

Playground: Nothing to report.

Composting/Candlelight Theatre: Nothing to report.

Misc Announcement: Community Ivy Party at the Ozers, 2002 Sherwood Rd., Arden, Sunday 2/17 10 am. Save trees around Sherwood Forest and enjoy refreshments at the Ozers!

SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT: Enno addressed the community about the illegal activity that has been seen at the bottom of Brae Road and around the village. Residents are encouraged to contact the police and village officials. In response to those activities, signs are being ordered for the end of Brae road indicating that the area is closed from dusk to dawn. Other measures are being considered.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal reporting - The budget is ready and the land rent has increased from \$1.40 to \$1.44. Pat Lane has copies of the budget for anyone interested.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen reporting- The New Year's Day Brunch for 2013 was sold out and a great success. Everyone mark your calendars for the next big fundraiser, the 2nd Annual Speakeasy on Saturday, March 23. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased through Beverley Fleming. Recently the dividing doors at the Buzz, which were at least 65 years old, were replaced. The new dividers are more sound proof and will increase the rentability of rooms 1 & 2. This improvement was paid for with the Buzz Renovation fund, from monies raised at Peddlars, Potions and Practitioners, The New Year's Day Brunch, and the Speakeasy. The next project is going to be exterior work and painting of the Buzz.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Enno Krebbers

- Complaints have been received about trash/recycling cans left in the road. Please encourage your neighbors to remove them after pickup.
- Many thanks to Barbara for getting the trailers off the greens on Sconset Road
- Mosquitoes: The letter asking the village whether it wishes to register for the mosquito control program arrived. This would mean we qualify for control measures, not that we will be sprayed. A motion was distributed for review as follows:

The Village of Ardentown will register with the State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) its desire to be eligible to participate in the 2013 DNREC mosquito control program. It is further resolved that should one or more residents report mosquito infestation within the village during 2013, the Coordinating Committee of the Village of Ardentown will be authorized to request DNREC to investigate and to authorize DNREC to undertake such mitigation actions as DNREC may recommend to control said infestation.

There was significant discussion. DNREC would evaluate whether an observed infestation was significant enough to warrant control measures. It was clarified that the Coordinating Committee would have authority to authorize any control measures based on advice given by DNREC. There is no practical way to opt out as the opt out zones would be too large to make control measures possible in a small village.

An amendment to the motion altering the minimum number of complaints to 5 was defeated. No further amendments were proposed. The motion passed with some nays, but no roll call was requested.

ELECTIONS:

Memorial Garden- Gil Johnston and Edmund Bischoff were unanimously elected. Jerome Bischoff was thanked for his past service.

Archives: Dotty Verne and Hans Franke were unanimously elected.

NEW BUSINESS-

Waste Bins- Hardy Hoegger has noticed that recently the bins, particularly the recycle bins have been left with the lids open. Harry will contact Amy Pollock to handle this.

Trailers- Concern was expressed for the damage to the Mall caused by the trailers. When and how will that be repaired? The original agreement with Paul Romagano is going to pay to have them repaired. Expect them to be filled and seeded in the Spring.

Meeting adjourned 8:20

Respectfully Submitted

Terri Hansen