

Village of Ardentown  
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975

IN ATTENDANCE:

- |                  |                        |                          |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Steven Curley | 14. Gil Johnston       | 27. Sue Merkle           |
| 2. Hardy Hoegger | 15. Betty Ann Themal   | 28. Katrina Nelson       |
| 3. Rusty Hoegger | 16. Peter Slattery     | 29. Anne Cavanaugh       |
| 4. Shari Phalan  | 17. Hetty Francke      | 30. Chris Monson         |
| 5. Pat Phalan    | 18. Hans Francke       | 31. Beverley Fleming     |
| 6. Jen Curley    | 19. Hugh Phibbs        | 32. Maureen Gordon       |
| 7. Steve Cohen   | 20. Alison Wakelin     | 33. Tara Kelly           |
| 8. Cindy Cohen   | 21. Stephanie Lombardo | 34. Mike Fish            |
| 9. Drew Hansen   | 22. Oliver Gutsche     | 35. Holly Custer         |
| 10. Terri Hansen | 23. Page Dwyer         | 36. Jennifer Coe         |
| 11. Pat Lane     | 24. Dotty Verne        | 37. Shelley Robyn        |
| 12. Harry Themal | 25. June Kleban        | 38. Anne P. Lutz         |
| 13. Terry Harvey | 26. Anne Balogh        | 39. Brooke Bovard, guest |

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35pm on Monday, February 9, 2015. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the February meeting were approved with no changes.

**Registration Report-** Betty Ann Themal, no new residents to report at this time.

**Treasurer's Report-** Holly Custer - (waiting for her email)

**Audit Report-** Holly Custer - Books (Village and Trust) were audited on December 19 and found to be in order.

**Budget Report-** Steven Curley- There have been some changes to this year's proposed budget. The Trust decided from a management sense it did not make sense to split donations to the Buzz, ACRA, Arden Page, Library and Archives between the Village and the Trust. The Trust will continue to make the Fire Company donation because of insurance and safety concerns. The Budget Committee proposed that the Village make up the difference to keep all donations at the previous level. Money could be shifted from the snow removal budget (equal to the ten year average spent on snow), with a request to the Trust for help if weather requires that we need more money for snow removal than budgeted. The Trust agreed.

Discussion:

A member requested clarification of the difference between the Trust and the Village budgets. The Trust said they did not intend that the Town would pick up the costs. A Budget Committee member explained that when the Budget Committee learned that the Trust had eliminated their donations, the Committee decided that it was important that we continue to support the village social organizations and efforts. Concern was raised that our donation to the Buzz would potentially go back in the Village of Arden budget. Residents were referred to the article in the February Page.

Motion: Steven Cohen made a motion to accept the budget as written. Motion passed with one nay and one abstention.

Motion: Alison Wakelin made a motion that we give the \$700 that we did not give last year to the Buzz. Vote: 14 in favor, 19 against, 3 abstentions. Motion failed.

Motion: Holly Custer made a motion that the 2015 donation to the Buzz Ware Village Center be designated to the Community Events Fund to defray costs of ACRA, Art on the Town, Coffeehouse. Vote: 22 in favor, 14 opposed, 5 abstentions. Motion carried and the donation will be earmarked in support of community events.

Discussion: Concern was expressed that "Community Events" is not a current line item and that may cause a problem for the Buzz. The Chair had checked with the Arden's Treasurer who said that would not be a problem. A member said that the vote is symbolic; do we trust the Buzz Committee to administer the building and take our input as in the past and he felt we should. A member asked about the budget and in the Arden budget there is \$25,000. A member felt that contributing to the operating budget would support community events. Another member said that currently, the income from rentals cover the operating expenses.

Annie pointed out that we all feel very strongly about supporting the Buzz and its efforts.

**Memorial Garden Report-** Rusty Hoegger- nothing to report.

**Community Planning-** Drew Hansen- New bridge in the Glen over the creek along with a new path thanks to the efforts of Elaine Schmerling. A meeting will be held later this week to discuss a WILMAPCO offer. Ben Gruswitz will be moving and a new committee member is needed to join.

**Public Works** Sue Mearkle (?)

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs: A walk through will be done in the Spring to assess any needed road repairs.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan: Nothing new to report.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano: Plowing has been minimal; however we have needed sanding/salting on a few occasions. The process when requesting any sanding/salting is to contact Paul Romagano first. Cheryl can be contacted second (do not call in the middle of the night). Residents are not to call Jim Burslem directly. We urge usage of the sand/salt barrels that were delivered to assist with slipping.

Natural Lands - Elaine Schmerling:

1) TREE MANAGEMENT GRANT

A check has been submitted for the first grant disbursement for Kerns' work, we should receive our check for \$2,766 any day now. Just got the bill for Ron's part of the elm removal, \$1,400. Have to wait until we do our spring planting to finalize the grant and ask for final disbursement. I have a draft plan for planting using \$500 the Trustees offered\*. Need to finalize and hope to plant in April. If anyone besides Harry (for street trees), Shari Phalan and Hugh Phibbs (for planting to slow the run-off between their houses) have input, call Elaine! I am hoping they will have 4 or 5' dogwoods, so that this planting will be within \$500.

2) TRAIL WORK

The DNREC trails crew came through! They gave us 1) sturdier bridge, at the lower crossing, to replace the one down by Phibb's house (the old crossing is blocked off with tape). 2) They made a NEW TRAIL from Candelight Parking lot to Glen! They left stone for us to replace as needed. Chris Monson was there and helped with arrangements – thanks Chris!

3) MISCELLANEOUS

Chris Monson has agreed to join the Public Works and Safety Committee. There is still one opening remaining.

A question was asked about plans for Sunnyside. Chris Monson said that he and Elaine are planning some invasive removal. Long term they hope to establish trails there. Annie encouraged all to keep an eye on the Page and Facebook for news and information.

**Playground-** Steven Curley- nothing to report.

**Trustees Report-** Harry Themal- Land rent bills were distributed to leaseholders at the meeting with no increase in rent. A letter will be sent in the next month with details and information related to the resignation of Barbara Mondzelewski and election of a new trustee.

Pat Lane- Budget information for the Trust will be available upon request.

A member asked for clarification for trees the Trust is dealing with, are they on Town land or leaseholds? The answer was that all are on Town lands.

**Town Chair Report-** Annie Gutsche- Town has continued with its agreement with FEMA to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. We have participated since 1997 and continue to do this to benefit a few leaseholders in the floodplains.

DNREC sent a letter asking the Village to sign up for the annual mosquito spraying program. Spraying would only occur if complaints are received and deemed to be needed and effective. Spraying would only happen over the protests of residents in the event of confirmed cases of disease-carrying mosquitoes. No questions from the floor; Annie will sign us up for the program.

## **Elections**

Archives (June Kleban and Hans Francke)- elected unanimously

Memorial garden (Gil Johnston, Edmund Bischoff, Cheryl Regan)- elected unanimously

## **New Business-**

Annie Lutz- Contacted Bryon Short's office about access to Ardentown going left on to Sconset Road from Harvey Road. There is no left arrow at this light and impatient people make it a traffic hazard. DeIDOT will review the intersection in March.

Brooke Bovard- Chair of Safety, Village of Arden, and Ardentown leaseholder. She is in discussion with DeIDOT about speed and safety on Harvey. We have 9 crosswalks that will be better marked and the crossing at Sconset and Harvey will be evaluated.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30.**