

Village of Ardentown

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

Ardentown, Del. 19810

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on **Monday, May, 12, 2008**. Alison Byer, Chair, presiding. **A quorum was present.**

Attendance

1. Alison Byer
2. Joan Fitzgerald
3. Bob Miller
4. Kate O'Grady
5. Dorothy Dixon
6. Enno Krebbers
7. Cheryl Regan
8. Rusty Hoegger
9. Hardy Hoegger
10. Richard Mondzelewski
11. Barbara Mondzelewski
12. Joy Mulholland
13. Pat Lane
14. Gil Johnston
15. Janet Cosgrove
16. Bob DeNigris
17. Dotty Verne
18. Hans Francke
19. Betty Ann Themal
20. Harry Themal
21. Beverley Fleming
22. Cindy Cohen
23. Steve Cohen
24. Sheila Johnston
25. Holly Custer
26. Peter Willis
27. Elaine Schmerling
28. Ben Riblett
29. Lisa Riblett
30. David Scott
31. Maureen Gordon

Guest: Gladys Butt

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order Alison Byer, Town Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$24,359.05
Municipal Street Aid:	.00
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>22,591.37</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$46,950.42

COMMUNITY UPDATE: Janet Cosgrove

At the Feb. 11, 2008 town meeting, Pam Cohen brought to our attention a small feral cat colony behind Candlelight that had the potential of expanding to dozens if not hundreds of cats in the future. Janet Cosgrove contacted Forgotten Cats, a rescue group whose mission is to prevent overpopulation by catching, neutering, and releasing feral cats. With a generous donation of \$350,000 from Ardentown, Pam Cohen was able to catch 7 cats, have them neutered or spayed, and released them back to their territory. Pam set the traps and checked the cages day and night by herself during the bitter cold weather, transported the cats to the clinic on Phila. Pike, and picked them up for release. Pam did an outstanding job, and she continues to feed the cats every morning.

INTERNSHIP AWARDS: Alison Byer

Shira Butt and Rebekah Byer completed the Ardentown internship and were presented their Certificate along with a check for \$100.00.
Congratulations to Shira and Rebekah!

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Sheila Johnston

Mark and Gwen Lopez have moved into 2303 Sconset Road
Doug Rygden has moved from 2325 Sconset Road
Stephen Episcopo has moved into 2325 Sconset Road
Linda Williams has moved into 2327 Sconset Road
Andrea Harmer has moved into 1707 Harvey Road
Jill Graham has moved into 1505 Harvey Road
Maureen Collins has moved into 2313 East Mall
Joshua Richardson has moved into 2303 East Mall
David Scott has moved into 2305A Loreley Lane
Brian Wild and Gina Cipolloni have moved into 1607 Orchard Road

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger

Everything survived this winter!

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Beverley Fleming

There will not be an Arden School this coming year due to lack of interest.

New windows are being installed in June. They will have a similar look to the present historic ones, but will be vinyl and energy efficient.

As a fundraiser, since we do need more money for painting the building and finishing the entrance, we are asking the community to donate a minimum of \$20 per window, which includes a tax receipt.

Ardencroft increased its \$1500 donation to \$2000; any increase from Ardentown would be greatly appreciated.

On June 7th, the Buzz will be *the place to be* for a huge fund raiser benefiting our custodian Keith Powell who lost his leg to diabetes.

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Holly Custer

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Pat Lane

Paths/Trees/Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling:

CEPF Grant – Botanist Janet Ebert completed her botanical study and walk-through forest assessment. She also walked through Sunnyside with us May 8th. While we are awaiting her final report, she verbally recommended that we preserve the GOOD areas of the Ardentown forest and Sunnyside, and actively educate people about the plants there and pull out invasives as they are seeding. We need to be stewards of these beautiful areas and preserve them.

Tree Grants

Tree planting grant – Elaine and Harry Thernal walked through our greens. We have a draft sketch of trees to plant around all the greens and commons. Elaine will send this grant application (maximum \$5,000) in June.

Tree Management grant - Harry will send in the application as per Bartlett's estimate.

Compost area – The web site for the compost area is in the process of being updated, so everyone will have the same information. It appears contractors were dumping truckloads of leaves by lifting the double gates off the hinges. Hal Goodwin is going to make some adjustments to the gates to prevent this in the future. He is going to clean up the mess a little at a time to contain costs.

Roads – Drew Hansen:

We received notice of \$1,800 available from DelDot, which we plan to use to repair water damage near the top of Sconset Road. We are accepting bids from Faella and Downing. A walk-through is planned sometime soon. Residents should notify Drew if there are areas of road in need of attention.

Signs – Cheryl Regan/Barry Wallace:

Three signs (aluminum) are missing from the berm on Eden Rock; one pole holding a double dip sign, and one slow sign for the playground area. We are looking at approx. 30 wooden road signs for the town. Two years ago these signs cost \$84 each, plus shipping. Elaine Schmerling is going to drop off a piece of Trex lumber to see if it can be retrofitted to use for town signs which would last a lot longer. Cheryl is going to check with the prison industries in Dover to see if they can replicate the signs at a lower cost.

Snow/Sand – David Byer:

Total cost for snow removal by Jim Burslem, including the \$500 retainer, was \$1,720. The sand barrels, hardly used but there for all, were removed without ceremony.

Sunnyside Tract – Barbara Conway

Elaine Schmerling, Alison Byer, Barbara Conway, and Pat Lane did a walk through with Botanist, Janet Ebert, as mentioned above. We want to do a walk and weed, combined with some bird watching, the first Sunday in June starting at 9 a.m. All are invited to join!

Town Watch – Holly Custer

The only issue seems to be someone playing drums at 3 a.m. on the weekends in the area of Appletree and Loreley Lanes. A letter is being sent to try to address the issue.

Playground – Elaine Schmerling

New mulch has been installed

TRUSTEES' REPORT: Bob DeNigris, Barbara Mondzelewski, Harry Themal
Nothing at this time.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Byer

The letter was sent to Sen. Thurman Adams, President Pro Tem, requesting the General Assembly to open its legislative deliberations to public scrutiny and to end the practice of individual members' power to block bills.

David McClintock's request for a sign was discussed. It was decided the sign to rent business, should comply with Delaware code and should not be put on our posts.

As a follow up from the last meeting where Janet Cosgrove reported about 7 deer seen around Tom Nelson's property, Alison made some inquiries and there is not much we can do at this time. We can only monitor to see if the deer population increases.

Welcome Melanie Riblett – one of our recent interns!

ELECTIONS :

Audit Committee: Elected for a 1 year term
Hans Francke, Holly Custer, Steve Cohen, *Chair*

Public Works and Safety Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Elaine Schmerling, David Scott, Pat Lane, *Chair*


Playground Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Elaine Schmerling, *Chair*

NEW BUSINESS:

Congratulations to Cheryl Regan on her recent graduation this month!
Cheryl graduated from Wilmington University with honors – Magna Cum Laude
with a degree in Behavioral Science; while working full time at the prisons!

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary