

May 2010
minutes

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING
The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

Monday, September 13, 2010
7:30 pm

AGENDA (partial)

1. Elections: Registration Committee – 2 members, 2 year term
Budget Committee - 2 members, 2 year
2. Audit Committee: Annual Report
3. Committee Reports

Local candidates have been invited

*****Calling all residents 13-18 years old*****

We are looking for 2 interns as we start our 5th year.

Come find out what makes your town so special!

Call Steve Cohen 475-5814 or Alison Byer 475-2384 for details

*****Donations Now Being Accepted*****

YOU – At *your* Town Meeting this Monday night at 7:30!!!

ARDENTOWN MEMORIAL GARDENS

ARDENTOWN PATHWAYS

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

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The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 10, 2010. Alison Byer, Chair, presiding. **A quorum was present**

Attendance

1. Alison Byer
2. Robert DeNigris
3. Barbara Mondzelewski
4. Joan Fitzgerald
5. Betty Ann Themal
6. Harry Themal
7. Steve Cohen
8. Enno Krebbers
9. Holly Custer
10. Janet Cosgrove
11. Lisa Wilson Riblett
12. Allen Riblet
13. Rusty Hoegger
14. Hardy Hoegger
15. Ann Balogh
16. Pat Lane
17. Bob Miller
18. Sandy Landerl
19. Bob Lockerman
20. Edmond Bischoff
21. Sue Mearkle
22. Joan Phibbs
23. Hans Francke
24. Barbara Conway
25. Maura Lynch
26. Sharon Kleban
27. Oliver Gutsche
28. Maureen Gordon

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 8, 2010 meeting - approved. Since a quorum was present, the minutes of the past 2 meetings were also approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Janet Cosgrove reporting
Nothing to report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$18,610.63
Municipal Street Aid:	.00
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>25,307.46</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$43,918.09

While not a part of the Treasurer's report, Enno Krebbers pointed out that our snow removal budget was \$6,000 our cost so far this year is a little over \$9,000.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger reporting
Nothing to report

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Beverley Fleming reporting
Nothing to report

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT: Steve Cohen
Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Pat Lane
Paths/Trees/Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling:

Tree Planting The plan is to submit another DE Dept. of Forestry tree-planting grant application, due in July, for Fall planting. We would like to add more dogwoods on all remaining border spaces in The Mall areas (including section on Sconset as you come off Harvey Road). We'd also like to add a few more canopy trees: a yellowwood in the middle of the small green area on Sconset just off Harvey; and a few more dogwoods and canopy trees on the Petit Green. Please provide input for canopy trees ideas. Those I have already are: Yellowwood, more Black Gums (2 planted last planting), and/or American Basswood (quicker growing and VERY street-hardy; they are the 2 taller of the planted trees next to Candlelight). Once again we will have no Ardentown money. All required match monies will be from volunteer time planning, picking up trees, supervising and maintaining.

We also want to help Arden plant more trees in the Green. We may combine grant applications, depending on the amounts of money requested.

Hal has also removed a dead dogwood tree from The Mall near the East Mall intersection.

Compost Hal cut the grass and cleaned up around the teaching area. Since the grass cutters are supposed to cut the grass in that area, we are going to discuss it with them again. Someone is throwing sticks in the compost. **It is for leaves only.**

Paths Hal has been clearing the paths and laying woodchips.

Roads – Drew Hansen:

On April 20 an estimate was received from Downing for repairs to 7 specific areas with significant damage, and an additional 5,000 square feet showing heavy wear.

For the seven significantly damaged areas (on Loreley, Orchard, Swiss, The Mall and Millers), the estimate is \$5,995.00 (\$5.45/s.f.). For the additional 5,000 sq.ft. of worn areas (on The Mall, Millers and Swiss), the estimate is \$16,250.00 (\$3.25/s.f.). For a total project estimate of \$22,245.00. This proposal was sent to the office of Representative Bryon Short on May 1, 2010.

We suggest Hal paint the speed bumps instead of bringing in a contractor. We will get the same result at a much lower price.

Signs – Cheryl Regan:

On 3/21/10 Cheryl completed the following:

Reinstalled a no parking sign on the Pettit green.

Reinstalled one way sign at The Mall and Millers.

Replaced 2 Via Italia and 2 Loreley Road.

Replaced 2 Via Italia and 1 Swiss Lane and straightened the pole.

Replaced 2 Loreley Road and 2 Appletree Lane.

Replaced 2 Woodland Road and 1 Orchard Road.

Replaced 1 Appletree Lane and 1 Hilltop Lane and straightened the pole.

Most of the old signs were deteriorated or split while trying to get them off of the poles. A few signs were kept to try to repair for future use.

The following signs have been ordered:

2 Loreley Road (at Millers)	1 Springhouse Lane
2 Loreley Road (at Orchard)	2 Hilltop Lane
1 The Mall	2 Woodland Road
1 Brae Road	1 Sconset Road
1 Orchard Road	

There are still some signs in Cheryl's shed and when this order comes in, she will match them up to replace all the signs on a pole rather than have them mixed old and new. Cheryl is looking into getting a price on what one of our wooden signs would cost done in vinyl.

We would like to welcome Paul Romagano to the Public Works Committee and he will be working with Cheryl to maintain the signs.

Snow/Sand – David Byer:

Seasonal Snow Removal: In the last meeting we reported that Jim Burslem removed snow from 12/18-12/21/09, at a cost of \$2365 plus the \$500 retainer. We were, of course, blessed with more of the white stuff, lots more, this between 01/08~02/14/10 at a cost of \$6680, bringing the seasonal snow removal total to \$9545,

Here is the daily costs for this period:

01/08: \$ 815	02/09: \$ 510
02/03: \$ 410	02/10: \$1190
02/05: \$ 850	02/11: \$ 680
02/06: \$1190	02/13: \$ 320
02/07: \$ 340	02/14: \$ 375

Many people, including Arden leaseholders, as well as landscapers were out with loaders and snow blowers charging varying amounts and others just being neighborly. Because of the sheer amount of snow, the snow had to be piled quite high and sometimes made for hazardous driving visibility, particularly on corners such as Swiss and Harvey and The Mall and East Mall. Kudos to Jim Burslem for helping to alleviate the problem(s) with his loader for no additional charges to the village.

Sand Barrels: The sand barrels were removed sometime in mid-April; the question for next year remains: Do we need/want/use them? A comment from Harry suggested the sand wasn't much use. However, one leaseholder got in a snow bank on The Mall just after picking up some sand and used it to free his truck. We are considering not requesting sand next year or fewer barrels as it appears not many use them. If you need/use sand, let us know where you are. We are considering placing barrels only at Sconset, Brae, Appletree, Woodland and The East Mall. Please send your thoughts on the subject to dabyer@comcast.net or ardenlane10@yahoo.com.

Sunnyside Tract – Barbara Conway

On April 24, 2010, an Earth Day clean up of the Sunnyside Tract was performed by Elaine Schmerling, Bob DeNigris and Barbara Conway. The area was found to be in good condition. A small amount of trash was found, but nothing similar to the magnitude of the trash picked up in 2009. The area known in the past as a homeless camp, was observed and found to be completely trash free. However, there was evidence of recent campfire activity in that spot.

Due to the absence of trash, invasive plant species were removed during the clean up. Because of the warm weather, there was a lot of poison ivy present, which was not the case last year. Much of the area was beautiful and full of native plant species such as Mayapple, Spring Beauties and Cranesbill (Hardy Geranium), which were in bloom, as well as Trout Lillies and Skunk Cabbage.

Noteworthy bird species observed in and around the Sunnyside Tract during the recent bird migration are:

Black Vulture /Yellow Rumped Warbler / Blue Gray Gnatcatcher/ Eastern Wood Peewee

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.**

Town Watch - Holly Custer

The problem of unauthorized parking still continues. 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.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Bob DeNigris, Barbara Mondzelewski, Harry Themal

Nothing to report

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Byer

Arden Code Enforcement:

The Village of Arden

Energy Efficient Grant (Green stimulus \$20,000) update: Paperwork has been sent in.

Desmond Baker will perform energy audit on the Candlelight Theatre on mid May.

The Ardens are also looking into some joint projects. Suggestions have been solar panels on the back roof of the Gild Hall and front roof of the Buzz.

There will be a joint meeting May 27th at the Buzz – all are welcomed to attend.

Alison asked for volunteers to for a committee to participate in the collective grant process with Arden and Ardencroft.

Maura Lynch, Holly Custer, Hans Francke, Sue Mearkle, and Enno Krebbers volunteered.

ELECTIONS :

Public Works and Safety Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Pat Lane, Elaine Schmerling, and Paul Ron

Audit Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Enno Krebbers, Holly Custer, and Hans Francke

ELECTIONS – SEPTEMBER: Registration and Budget/Assessment Committees

OLD BUSINESS: Unauthorized parking continues to be a problem

NEW BUSINESS:

Harry Thernal has been in touch with DelDot about the traffic pattern at the Marsh and Harvey Roads intersection and there is nothing that can be done.

Harry also reminded everyone of the open burning ban from May 1 – Sept 30.
No open burning allowed. Waste Management has been picking up branches.

Harry Thernal 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.

These changes must come from the Village, not the Trustees.

By-laws: We need to add the Coordinating Committee

How do we get more residents to attend our meetings??

Next meeting – bring your neighbor!

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

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary

Joan Fitzgerald
Ardentown Secretary
2305 Loreley Lane
Ardentown, DE 19810