

May 2011
minutes

Village of Ardentown

Established 1922

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

**Monday, September 12, 2011
7:30 pm**

AGENDA (partial)

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

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

We are looking for 2 interns as we start our 6th year.

Come find out what makes your town so special!

Call Alison Byer 475-2384 for details

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 9, 2011. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. **Quorum not present**

Attendance

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Betty Ann Themal | 11. Annie Gutsche | 21. Shelly Robyn |
| 2. Harry Themal | 12. Joy Mulholland | 22. Sheila Johnston |
| 3. Rhys McClure | 13. Robert Lockerman | 23. Gil Johnston |
| 4. Steve Cohen | 14. Carol Lovett | 24. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Cheryl Regan | 15. Sandy Landerl | 25. June Kleban |
| 6. Rusty Hoegger | 16. Pat Lane | 26. Nicholas Gutsche,
Intern |
| 7. Kathleen MacRae | 17. Robert DeNigris | 27. Lilah Kleban, Intern |
| 8. Alison Byer | 18. Edmond Bischoff | |
| 9. Enno Krebbers | 19. Barbara Conway | |
| 10. Joan Fitzgerald | 20. Joan Phibbs | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order by Enno Krebbers, Town Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting - approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Janet Cosgrove reporting
New Resident: David DeGarmo – 2203 Swiss Lane

TREASURER'S REPORT: Enno Krebbers reporting for Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$33,831.53
Municipal Street Aid:	8,742.64
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>25,307.46</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$67,881.63

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger reporting
An article was written for the Arden Page – May, 2011

Ardentown Memorial Garden

The Ardentown Memorial Garden, located at Swiss Lane and Harvey Road, was established in 1990 and is administered by a Memorial Garden Committee. Residents or former residents who have lived in Ardentown for at least five years are eligible for burial in the Gardens (ashes only). At the time of interment, a donation from the family is expected and annual donations are requested thereafter. This is necessary for the continuing upkeep and improvement of the Garden. Donations also would be gladly accepted at any time from residents or non-residents alike. Donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to The Village of Ardentown (specify 'for Memorial Garden') and can be mailed to Barbara Mondezelewski, Treasurer, Village of Ardentown, 2400 Sconset Road, Ardentown, DE 19810. *Rusty Hoegger, Chair*

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Pat Lane reporting for Beverley Fleming

Buzz Ware is extremely busy with rentals, long term rentals and various committee meetings or classes from the 3 Ardens.

Our New Years Day Brunch Fund Raiser was a sold out success once again this year! Plans are being made for the Peddlers, Potion and Practitioners for Buzz' Annual Fund Raiser at the Arden Fair. All proceeds are going to the restoration fund at the Buzz.

We do depend on donations from the 3 Ardens as well to keep the building running smoothly and efficiently. We thank Ardentown for your donations and welcome new ideas and volunteers. Please call 478-2818 and leave a message for any inquiries. I will get back to you within 24 hours.

We will be having a new Fund Raiser on September 30th, which includes a wine tasting, finger food, live music and small silent auction. More details to follow in the Arden Page and please check TheArdens.com website under Buzz Ware Village Center calendar for more details.

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT: Alison Byer reporting

Congratulations to Lilah Kleban and Nicholas Gutsche our two most recent graduates of the Ardentown Internship program. Alison presented them with a check for \$100 along with their certificates of Good Citizenship. *Congratulations Lilah and Nicholas!!*

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Barbara Conway reporting

Snow Removal— David Byer: Since there were no requests for sand barrels and no complaints about not having them, David recommends not getting them for the next snow season, otherwise, nothing new to report.

Roads — Joan Phibbs: As far as roads go...there are a few potholes in and around town.....1 on Hillside and Loreley and a couple by the Gordon's and Francke's on East Mall, and one more around the corner on Woodland and East Mall from all the water run-off. There is still an ongoing problem at the end of East Mall. There is also a pothole at Swiss and Via Italia. The manhole cover on Millers just off of Harvey is sinking. I had spoken to Pat Lane and the contractor last fall about the ongoing flooding of our leasehold with all the run-off from East Mall that pours down the street and cannot make the corner. We have had a few flooded basements, silt deposits and our side yard has been under water a number of times in the past two years. Apparently, it was supposed to be addressed years ago but the former owners were not satisfied with the plans...I don't know much more.

Action Item -contact DELdot about painting a center line and putting a "stop here" sign at Sconset and Harvey. Did Shelley Robyn follow up about the blind turn in the same spot?

Playground— Elaine Schmerling: Annie & I checked the playground equipment Sunday, May 9. Equipment looks in good shape! Except that Warren has replaced 3 tetherballs already this season, and the last one was put in with better string and knot, looks like it was cut off. We did find one older one in the creek, unusable. He will replace this shortly.

We could use more mulch. Also 2 fenceposts are down. One was brand new, it looks like people sat on it or purposefully broke it. Another looks rotted. We trust the Trustees will pay for this.

Trees — Elaine Schmerling: Landscape cloth and mulch will be put around the winterberries on the Henry George Green. Do the compost bins need new signs? Pat Lane will check with Hal Goodwin.

Elaine got several seedlings of dogwood and redbud. She will use them to replace where the trees were completely killed (the 2 dead ones in front of Janet's house have lawnmower/weed whacker damage ALL AROUND in a circle in the bark. We also have 2 up by Alison Byer's house like that).

Barbara Conway wins the prize for FENCING off and mulching trees on her end. The fencing will certainly protect them! Cheryl Regan & I will put landscape cloth (I am donating) and mulch (she is donating) around the winterberry hollies on her corner.

It would be so fabulous if other people can do this and keep weeds off the bases of the trees – any high grass or weeds, the lawn guys try to cut the grass & weeds, and it hurts the bark. I am also trying to replant violets (from my garden where I don't want them) to be groundcover under trees. If others want to save violets and plant them around trees near them, and pull the weeds, and/or fence, mulch etc, it would be a big help.

Compost – Hetty Francke: no report.

Signs – Cheryl Regan: 22 signs need to be ordered. There is \$500 budgeted for signs, which will cover all 22.

Safety – Holly Custer: Spring is an active time of year bringing restless young men back outside. As I am sure everyone knows we had a rash of BB shootings at cars during the month of April, we have also had reports of young men roaming the paths after 11 pm, reportedly looking into windows and running if a light comes on. The community bulletin board by the Candlelight has also been vandalized. Residents would be well advised to keep an eye on their properties and their neighbors if they see anything unusual report it to the police and to me (Ardentown Public Safety contact) to record.

Amy Kevis, the New Castle County police community liaison has been contacted with a request for additional patrols due to recent problems (graffiti, late night loitering, car windows shot out with BB guns, mail tampering). Amy said that since we do not pay county taxes it is hard to justify patrols, especially in these economic times. The police will attempt to address the drug dealing issues and Amy will pass that info on to the proper department. Amy suggested that the Town Watch program be resurrected. She said that Radnor Green has had a similar increase in problems, including an incident where a woman was knocked down and robbed. Amy suggested that we may want to partner our Town Watch program with Radnor Green's. She said a woman named Carol runs the Radnor Green program.

See Pat Lane's recent submission to The Arden Page regarding 3 men seen loitering on Ardentown paths.

Sunnyside Tract – Barbara Conway: An Earth Day Clean-up was held in the Sunnyside Tract on April 16, 2011. Thanks to Elaine Schmerling, Maura Lynch, Ray Duffy and myself, we collected several large bags of trash and several large bags of invasive plants. Many invasive vines were cut, too. There was evidence of recent campfires in the area previously occupied by a "camper" in 2009.

On May 1, 2011, a nature walk to learn about native plants and wild birds, was lead through the Sunnyside Tract by Elaine Schmerling and Barbara Conway. Five enthusiastic walkers spent three hours learning about native plants, invasive plants, local history, and wild birds. We also picked up trash and pulled several bags worth of invasive plants. We observed a large patch of multiflora rose, an invasive species, in the middle of the tract. Since the Sunnyside Tract has an annual budget of \$200, we thought that perhaps we could use the money to hire Steve Galgiano, of Redtail Restoration, who does careful and judicious spraying of invasive plants for Arden, to spray this particular patch of multiflora rose in the fall. In the past, when we had professional biologist Janet Ebert tour the Sunnyside Tract, her recommendation was to work on removing invasives from the mid sections first where the forest is less impacted by invasive species as compared to fringes. This patch of multiflora rose fits that criteria.

Birds encountered during our walk: 3 Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrush, Baltimore Oriole Wood Pewee, Eastern Towhee, and Red Bellied Woodpecker

Also, coming to our feeder for two weeks or so was White Crowned Sparrow.

Discussion :

- Phibbs leasehold: It was suggested the Phibbs could build an 8-10 inch berm to help correct the water run off.
- Sconset & Harvey: The blind spot (corner) continues to be a problem.
- Playground: The Trustees will pay for the additional mulch.
- New Castle County Police : Ardentown does pay New Castle County taxes.
- Harry Themal will contact Amy Kevis' s supervisor.

Compost Bins: Pat Lane reminded everyone in order to dump your leaves, grass clippings, weeds you are to lift over or go under the gates; vehicles are not allowed through the gates.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski, Harry Thernal, and Pat Lane

- Harry Thernal reported the recent passing of Mark Roth, owner of Eden Rock. A State Division Management team will step in to assist.
- 1975 Act of Incorporation – In the process of adding the exact boundaries of the Sunnyside Tract.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Enno Krebbers

- BB gun and Security issues – Be sure to call the police to report any illegal, dangerous or suspicious behavior.
- Absentee voting – Arden and Ardencroft are discussing the implementation of absentee voting. Since our elections are distributed through the year at different meetings, we will hold off on any more discussions at this time.
- New Castle County is currently out of funds – we should not expect any help from them.

ELECTIONS :

Public Works & Safety Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Holly Custer, Joan Phibbs, Cheryl Regan, David Byer

Playground Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Elaine Schmerling, Annie Gutsche, Pat Hannigan

Audit Committee: Elected for a 1 year term
Holly Custer, Hans Francke, June Kleban

ELECTIONS – SEPTEMBER: Registration and Budget

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Water Quality – if you are experiencing any problems with your water quality, please contact Amy Pollock. See article in Arden Page, May 2011
- Waste Management – if you are in need of a trash or recycle bin, call Waste Management and give them *your* address for delivery.

GOOD AND WELFARE: None

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary

Joan Fitzgerald
Ardentown Secretary
2305 Loreley Lane
Ardentown, DE 19810