

# 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, May 13, 2013. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

## ***In Attendance:***

- |                             |                     |                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Enno Krebbers            | 10. Rusty Hoegger   | 19. Maureen Gordon    |
| 2. Terri Hansen             | 11. Hardy Hoegger   | 20. Jennifer Curley   |
| 3. Barbara Mondzelewski     | 12. Joan Fitzgerald | 21. Sandy Landerl     |
| 4. Harry Thernal            | 13. Shari Phalan    | 22. Sue Merkle        |
| 5. Bety Ann Thernal         | 14. Joan Phibbs     | 23. Oliver Gutsche    |
| 6. Anne Lutz                | 15. Dotty Verne     | 24. Annie Gutsche     |
| 7. Robert Lockerman         | 16. Pat Land        | 25. Paul Romagano     |
| 8. Suzanne Winkler Macguire | 17. Susan Kaye      | 26. Elaine Schmerling |
| 9. Sandi Cooper             | 18. Ben Gruswitz    | 27. Sue Cherrin       |

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 2013 meeting were approved, as written with no correction

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Betty Ann Thernal reporting:

New Residents: Bernadette and Jerome Donohue moved into 2308 Orchard Road, February 17, 2013.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Barbara Mondzelewski reporting

Operating Accounts:	35,759.64
Municipal Street Aid:	9,398.03
Arden Building and Loan:	26,041.03
<b>Total Funds Available:</b>	<b>71,198.70</b>

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Ben Gruswitz reporting. Committee has digitally mapped all the Ardentown municipality area using historic maps, ground surveys, and mapping apps. While mapping they are assessing the condition of the paths in Ardentown. In the coming months the committee will meet to further discuss the findings and create a report of recommendations that will be presented at the September meeting.

Shari Phalan suggested the committee speak to Lisa Ribblett who worked on a project like this some years ago and may have information that would be helpful. Hardy Hoegger requested that he be contacted; he has a map of all the paths in all the Ardens he would like to share.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** nothing to report

## **PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Roads** – Numerous potholes were identified and arrangements are being made for the repairs. Those areas are: At the circle of Mall and East Mall; Miller's and The Mall; Corner of Sconset and The Mall; Miller Rd in front of the Candlelight – several areas; the end of Appletree; Appletree west of Loreley; Loreley north of Millers; Swiss Lane; Swiss Lane at Via Italia; East Mall by the speed bump by the Thernal's house.

**Signs** – Another 15 wooden signs are stained and painted and should be installed soon. A walkthrough this spring will determine what other wooden signs need addressing. The plan is to hopefully do a background stain on the relatively new existing signs without removing them. One of the wooden Millers Road signs has gone missing from Millers and Loreley, and a replacement will be ordered. Two metal signs have been installed down the bottom of Brae road to assist with the illegal parking. One was a surveillance sign like the one by the composting site, the other one was a No

Stopping, Standing or Parking. One of the no Stopping, Standing or Parking signs on the Henry George green has been spray painted and will be replaced.

The new bulletin board cover has been purchased and should be installed soon.

**Snow/sand** -Paul Romagano has agreed to take over the snow/sand part of the Public Works committee to fill the vacancy left by David Byer's moving. The sand barrels were picked up last month, and it does not appear that we will be billed for the barrel that was stolen from Via Italia/Loreley Road. We need to know if anyone actually uses the barrels and should we continue to order them. It doesn't appear that they had been used in the last couple of years. Jim Burslem generally sands/salts the major hills.

**Ardentown Natural Lands Steward – Elaine Schmerling:**

**Invasive Removal Grant**- We still have about \$600 left under the invasives grant, contracted with Greg (Redtail Restoration). He has been helping to clear out the left of the Candlelight, on Millers Rd. I have planted at the top HARDY low-grow sumac, and a few misc. hardy wildflowers, hoping they can replace the numerous weeds and make that a more attractive site. We hope to go back out to Sunnyside soon. Most recent work on ivy there was near Harvey Rd. Some ivy is dying back, but some requires more work, to be done next winter when the poison ivy is dormant.

**Gardening Sub-Committee**- Elaine & Cheryl planted and mulched out at the Via Italia/Loreley Corner of the Henry George Green. The winterberry hollies appear to have been negatively impacted by the walnut tree (as the serviceberries right near them). They planted beautyberries, and two small baby redbuds. They replanted the winterberries in the old compost demonstration site! They may do the same with the sickly serviceberries.

**Pathwork**- Hal has been busy clearing some of the paths and spreading wood chips.

**Playground**- Warren is looking for a tetherball replacement. It is hoped to put the mulch out soon under the see-saw. Jennifer Curley offered to take over the Playground Committee position held by Elaine Schmerling.

**Composting/Candlelight Theatre**- Hal Godwin removed weeds last week. Unfortunately in wet weather as at present the weeds grow quicker than the monthly grass cutting allows. More volunteers are required to keep this under control. Due to excessive short-dumping this spring, it will be necessary to again lock the compost area, with people gaining admission only by permission.

Elaine S. is working to transplant water-loving plants into the former compost demonstration site, including two winterberries there from last year. Volunteers are needed to help cover the area with cardboard and leaves to inhibit weed growth. There has been further mulching of the area. The river birches have grown, and are doing well along with other water loving plants. As those plants grow bigger they will soak up more of the standing water.

Elaine S. also re-tarped the available bin for compost. Russ McKinney has been happily gathering compost from it and may help with further work. Other volunteers would be welcome.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Harry Themal had nothing to report. Pat Lane spoke to Dennis at the Candlelight about the motion sensitive lights. The lights have been mounted, but need to be checked for effective direction.

**BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen, reporting** There will be a potluck party to say Thank you and farewell to Patrick Barry, longtime maintenance supervisor for the Buzz. Join us May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at the Buzz and bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Beverley Fleming, no later May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Security continues to be a frustration and a concern. Discussions with our elected officials have made clear there are no easy solutions. In the context of the "TAPS" program, residents should continue to call the police with regard to any suspicious activity so that it can be recorded. The number of quality of life calls recorded from an area will result in increased police attention. The number is XXX-XXXX.

The ongoing illegal parking issue at the bottom of Brae Road has subsided for now. It was planned to place a chain across the road to block cars from parking there (but still leaving room to turn around). That plan has been put on hold but will move forward quickly if problems recur. A motion detector light was installed on Pat Hannigan's house to help with lighting up the parking area to assist with chasing illegal parkers, and residents continue to make clear to those present when they should not be that they are being watched.

Suzanne Winkler Macguire called the TAPS line on a Sunday morning because a car was parked across her driveway talking on a cell phone and she saw him take a picture of her home. When she gave her address the officer immediately knew where her address was and she was taken seriously.

Residents are encouraged to contact town officials if it is felt that motion sensitive lights or chain barriers would help make a difference for a trouble spot.

The state asked for the information required for next year's municipal street aid and it was provided. An audit request was also made; Enno Krebbers and Barbara Mondzelewski will handle this.

Ardentown has been declared a 2012 Treetown. Elaine Schmerling has a commemorative banner and plaque.

Reminder: Please move trash and recycling cans away from the road when they are emptied. Please do not leave them so close to the road they impede traffic or might blow onto the road in strong winds.

Any water quality issues should be reported to Amy Pollock.

**ELECTIONS:**

**Public Works and Safety-** Cheryl Regan, Holly Custer, Joan Phibbs (assisted by Hugh Phibbs) were elected unanimously

**Playground-** Pat, Annie Gutche and Jennifer Curley were elected unanimously

**Audit-** June Kleban, Holly Custer and Hans Francke were elected unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Harry Themal requested that Hal Godwin be asked to paint the speed bumps

Betty Ann Themal requested that full names be used in the minutes

Meeting adjourned 8:20

Respectfully Submitted

Terri Hansen