

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 12, 2014. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Maureen Gordon | 10. Harry Thernal | 19. Pat Lane |
| 2. Cheryl Regan | 11. Betty Ann Thernal | 20. Sandra Landerl |
| 3. Joan Fitzgerald | 12. Annie P. Lutz | 21. Holly Custer |
| 4. Enno Krebbers | 13. Terri Hansen | 22. Elaine Schmerling |
| 5. June Kleban | 14. Andrew Hansen | 23. Oliver Gutsche |
| 6. Bob Lockerman | 15. Beverley Fleming | 24. Sara Stevenson |
| 7. Sue Mearkle | 16. Shelley Robyn | 25. Barbara Mondzelewski |
| 8. Steve Cohen | 17. Tara Kelly | 26. Rusty Hoegger |
| 9. Alison Wakelin | 18. Mike Fish | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Enno Krebbers, Town Chair. A quorum was present.

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

REGISTRATION- Betty Ann Thernal reporting

MARCH: From Roy Jones to Timothy and Kathryn Donovan

2200 Millers Road

From Lee Smith to Janna Scheflen

2234 Marsh Road

APRIL: Deb Giampietra, new resident

2306 Loreley Lane

TREASURER'S REPORT- Barbara Mondzelewski reporting

Operating Accounts: \$35,897.74

Municipal Street Aid \$15,122.62

Arden Building and Loan \$26,041.03

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$77,061.39

MEMORIAL GARDEN- Rusty Hoegger reporting: Winter was pretty hard on the planting and trees. Some limbs came down out of the hemlock trees, one sweet viburnum half died. The east side of the fence has been totally cleared away by Ivy Gables, so there is an opportunity for new landscaping there.

PLANNING COMMITTEE- Andrew Hansen, reporting: He has been in touch with DNREC to come out and look at the Glen bridge and pathway. The bridge is of real safety concern. There is a chance of getting some grant money from DNREC to reroute the path to eliminate or reduce the need for a bridge there.

PUBLIC WORKS – Cheryl Reagan reporting

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs: A walk-through was done to assess the damage done from this past nasty winter. Along with numerous potholes, there are some areas that are showing long vertical cracks in the roads that are becoming a concern. A contractor will do a walk around to look at all the areas and see which needs addressing now and which can wait. We are attempting to get a priority list established.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan: We have a list of road signs to be ordered, however that was held off until we can get some names for the paths signs. They will be more money since they are vertical and not horizontal, so we are trying to split the ordering between the two and stay within the budget. We need to have a few of the path names to get an order in.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano: I think everyone will agree that they are glad that winter is past us. With all the ice and cold temps this year, we had to order more sand for one of the sand barrels. The sand barrels were scheduled to be picked up.

Tree Management Grant - Report was submitted to get fully reimbursed for Kerns' Brothers \$4,503 work (cutting out dead elms and tree with monster wisteria vine threatening Sue Cherrin's garage) under the Urban Forestry Grant. We more than made our match just with work on winter storm-damaged trees.

New Grants - there will be another grant cycle this year for Fall award. See below.

Arbor Day Tree Plantings April 5/6: 22 trees and shrubs were planted in the town land off Brae Rd. just before the Phalans house, where the water washes down and where we had dead elms taken out. In a few years these plantings should start making a difference.

There was a cleanup at the bottom left on Sconset, where Beth Hartman has heroically been pulling/cutting invasive plants! The area is looking better. The Curly and Hansen families provided enthusiastic young volunteers, and their dads and Paul R. helped too pulling out huge invasive vines, Norway maples and multi-flora rose. The area has a lot of years' work to get it under control, but we did plant a few volunteer saplings and seedlings in the area.

Two dogwood saplings at top of Sconset by triangle, to total at least 30 new trees and shrubs for our Arbor Day Planting.

Earthday Cleanup- On April 12 we participated with the Naaman's Creek Watershed Assoc. Earthday Cleanup. We had 6 going into Sunnyside – 3 were Mt.Pleasant students needing Community Service hrs. We brought out 2 bags of trash and some rusty fencing, and about 2 bags of garlic mustard. We pulled a lot of Japanese honeysuckle in the area inside that we have been working on the last 2 years, left in 5 big piles on rocks to dry out.

Street Trees- The State gave us a lovely pink cup magnolia for being a Tree City USA! It has been planted on the playground on Miller Road, where Elaine Schmerling will be able to water all summer. These 3 smaller trees will help to replace the dead ash which was removed last year. Also replaced a fringe tree with the dying serviceberry between the walnuts on the Henry George Green.

Also there are a few dead dogwoods trees from previous plantings on East Mall. Elaine S. suspects it is from winter salt damage, excess shade and/or too much moisture. Will give them more time to be sure but we can consider a new street-tree planting in the Fall. The state thinks we should try the new disease-resistant elms, they say they have had good luck with them. And the new disease-resistant American Chestnuts, but we need a good spot for them to GROW (they get huge) and a place in the woods that can handle all the chestnuts they will eventually replace. Ideas?

Composting Site - is too wet, it is like a swamp. Can't walk there. Elaine S. has put boards down just to walk the path to the forest.

DNREC has been approached for advice about the compost site issues. They think first of all, since we previously had phragmites there, there already was a serious water issue there even before we built the compost site. The site gets a huge amount of runoff both from the Candelight parking lot/streets(s), and down from the playground. The woodchips and extra piled up leaves in the front have ruined the grading that Hal had had, to have water drain off the site. The current pile of dumped leaves completely stops some of the water in front of the gate. The excess leaves and woodchips too decomposed to make a spongy swampy area. They think a lot of the plantings done so far will do great, but won't be enough to make it walkable.

To remedy the problem, they suggest 1) Reduce the source of the problem, 2) Scrape off the top organic layer, 3) regrade, and then 4) put down something like concrete pilings to hold weight. They do NOT have if funding for this.

Suggestions: 1) Plant down the current pathway from the playground to the compost – to stop the water running down – leave a zig-zagged path, and plant water-loving trees all around. Would this be too hard for mowing? 2) Plant larger water-loving shrubs at the front of the fence at the bottom of the parking lot. Rooted willow cuttings have been placed on the inside side of the fence. 3) Dig a better trench to get the water from the site to the creek (tried – it already filled in). Is there any money for Hal to scrape off the top organic layer and regrade?

PLAYGROUND – Terri Hansen reporting for Jennifer/Steven Curley: The damaged swings were taken down with the chains and associated hardware. The chains and hardware are still in good condition and can be reused with new swing seats. The frames appear to be in a state of good repair with some hardware that will need to be tightened or replaced. The new swings will cost approximately \$35 each plus shipping and miscellaneous hardware and supplies the total cost should be under \$200. Once the new swings are received Steven Curley will replace the swings and make any needed repairs. He is hoping to have this done within the next two weeks.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal reporting there is nothing to report, no new information on Ivy Gables or the Bickhart property on Marsh Road. The old mill on Marsh Road is now owned by Jenna Schefflin and she is restoring the property with an eye to living there soon.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: (Enno Krebbers) - There were significant administrative tasks in the past quarter, most not of great import. However, there were multiple audits of a new style of the municipal street aide expenditures, pointing out the need for careful record keeping and documentation to ensure that Ardentwon retains access to those important funds.

There has been some small progress on the Buzz Ware Village Center situation. Ted Rosenthal met with the three town chairs to talk to them and listen to details. All agreed that he will approach the Buzz Ware Committee to meeting with them and talk to them as well. After gathering information from the Committee and other interested parties he will make recommendations. We are trying to make constructive progress and keep lines of communications open and cordial.

ELECTIONS:

Public Works: Susan Mearkle, Paul Romagano, Elaine Schmerling all reelected unanimously. One vacancy to fill, please check with your neighbors, the time commitment is small, but rewarding.

Audit: Holly Custer, Hans Francke, June Kleban all reelected unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

At the last meeting the idea of moving the playground to the Henry George Green, which is quite wet in areas. June Kleban suggests that we talk to Marianne Cinaglia about the rain garden they planted on the Big Green. The current playground is getting used, but it is small and the mosquitoes can be bad there. Residents around the Henry George Green are not so happy about the idea. Pettit Green and the triangle on the Mall are options to consider. Ultimately the playground committee will have to come up with a couple of proposals to present to the Town Meeting for a vote.

Elaine Schmerling: After talking to Hugh Phibbs she realized that she can apply for a grant for some plantings near his leasehold. It will be due before the next meeting. So she will move forward with it. No objections from the floor.

Bob Lockerman: At the intersection of Miller Road and Loreley it is a four way stop sign. There is a new family in the area, with several young children. Bob Lockerman encourages us all to be very careful when driving through the community.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm