

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 11, 2015. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Drew Hansen | 10. Sandy Landerl | 19. Chris Monson |
| 2. Terri Hansen | 11. Bob Lockerman | 20. Shelley Robyn |
| 3. Annie Gutsche | 12. Pat Lane | 21. Anne P. Lutz |
| 4. Holly Custer | 13. Harry Thernal | 22. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Jennie Coe | 14. Stef Lombardo | 23. Renata Brito-Cherrin |
| 6. Joan Fitzgerald | 15. Page Dwyer | 24. Elaine Schmerling |
| 7. Cheryl Regan | 16. Betty Ann Thernal | 25. Peter Slattery |
| 8. Terry Harvey | 17. Alison Wakelin | 26. Bryon Short (guest) |
| 9. June Kleban | 18. Dotty Vern | |

Approval of Minutes from February Meeting: passed with one adjustment, Joan Fitzgerald was in attendance at the February meeting.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report-

Operating Accounts \$ 41,088.83

Municipal Street Aid \$ 10,762.68

Arden Building and Loan \$22,134.88

TOTAL \$73,986.39

Registration - Betty Ann Thernal-

New leaseholders:

April 17, 2015

Lot 158 2311 Loreley Lane from Dulin to Stuart and Mhairi Craig

New Residents:

March 2, 2015

2311 Hilltop Road (leaseholder – Cosgrove): Michelle Lauer

daughter: Toby

April 1, 2015

1707 Harvey Road (leaseholder – Fitzgerald): Barbara Maletsky

2305 A Loreley Lane (leaseholder – Fitzgerald): Sara Benevento

daughter: Faith Sandouno dob: 7/2008

Memorial Garden - Rusty Hoegger (Betty Ann Thernal reporting this month) Winter was hard on some of the plantings, we lost a viburnum and a kuza dogwood. Plantings will be replaced as needed and as appropriate. A clean up will be scheduled for ivy removal and weeding, especially around stones.

Community Planning- Andrew Hansen - Waiting on a response from WILMAPCO on grant application.

Public Works- Cheryl Regan (and Elaine Schmerling for Natural Lands/Trees)

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs: A walk through was done and a few obvious areas were noted. Another walk through will be done to look for areas that are failing, but have not yet fallen apart. Another paving company name was submitted, and we will do a price comparison.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan: Six new town meeting signs were ordered. The wooden road signs and poles will be assessed and repairs done as needed.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano: The sand barrels were picked up, however any trash that had been put in them was left on the ground.

Elaine Schmerling:

1) TREE MANAGEMENT GRANT

The second and last grant disbursement (\$1,400) was submitted for removal of the dead elm. Thanks to the Trustees for paying \$500 for new trees – we purchased 39 smaller trees & shrubs. These included street trees: 10 dogwoods on The Mall & East Mall, 2 Blackhaw viburnums (one across from the Candelight Parking lot, and one at the corner of Appletree & Orchard on Petit Green. The tree order included trees & shrubs to help the run-off at the bottom of E. Mall (planted with Hugh), Brae (planted with Pat Phalan), and Sconset (planted with Beth Hartman & friends). Thanks also to Allan Kleban for driving to the wholesale nursery, and for helping dig up and plant a donated Dawn Redwood and hackberry on the Petit Green. Thanks too to neighbors and planters for help watering.

2) COMPOST AREA (Chris Monson)

- Chris is working on a better drainage solution.
- Alex Rudzinski planted apple trees in front of fence to compost area, we are working on weeding and protecting a few good plantings.

3) Paths & Natural Lands

- Hal chopped up the dead trees lying across the creek by the Phibbs and lay several parallel to the old bridge, on the far side of the bank, to help slow further erosion.
- Chris Monson is hoping to be able to reclaim a few trails through Sunnyside and map them out. We are going out this week with Nick Liberman who is volunteering to help saw some trees off the path.
- GARLIC MUSTARD IS OUT EVERYWHERE!!!! Please help pick, bag up and put out for yard waste collection (do NOT dispose in your yard or compost – every flower will make 100's of seeds). On 4/25 we picked garlic mustard from compost area into Glen with several volunteers; then Chris Monson & I picked in Sunnyside. We doubled the area we had been working on freeing from invasives to approximately an acre now. We are trying to have invasives cleared on the north side of the main path (between the path & creek).

Misc:

- Chris Monson moved the bench from the compost demonstration site to the Henry George green, and removed the broken wooden bench from the green. All the rebar posts were ground off so no damage to mowing would occur.
- A Resident mentioned that the bench on Pettit Green is beginning to fail.

Playground- Steven Curley - Playground could use some weeding and mulching. Mulch from landscaping places is currently running \$35 cubic foot so if anyone knows of better prices, please contact Steven.

Trustees- Harry Thernal, Pat Lane, Joan Fitzgerald- We are approaching the one year anniversary of the hail storm. Several homes have had roofs replaced due to damage and everyone is encouraged to contact their insurance companies and have their houses inspected, just in case.

Buzz Ware Village Center- Terri Hansen- Several new community events have been added to the monthly calendar at the Buzz including a Strength and Mobility Class and a Yoga class, both well attended and received. Rentals are vigorous and income has continued to modestly exceeded costs.

Town Chair- Annie Gutsche-
FEMA-

Resident expressed a desire to look over the agreement, some concern/reluctance over the agreement. Resident waived concerns and a motion was made to renew the agreement with FEMA. The Motion passed.

Elections- Public Works and Safety- Cheryl Regan and Joan Phibb re-elected unanimously.
Playground- Steven Curley and Annie re-elected, new resident Sarah elected.
Audit - Steven, Hans, Drew reelected unanimously.

New Business:

- ACRA Solicitations were done the first weekend in May with good results. ACRA is trying to increase the percentage of households who participate in the fundraising drive and all are encouraged to contribute as they see appropriate. House and Garden Tour date was announced as well as the upcoming Summer Program.
- A resident asked for an update on Ivy Gables. Learned that there are two residents, each very pleased. Staff hopes for more residents soon.
- A resident raised questions about the Prettyman leasehold. Joan shared that the Trustees were able to retrieve 5 years of Land Rent. However, wouldn't it be possible for Trustees to inform the Town Meetings how many leaseholds are in arrears? Harry feels that there is no trouble with that.
- Further question- Is there a policy or process for properties in arrears? Harry - Phone calls are made, letters are sent. Allowances are made and then they are referred to Ted Rosenthal. There are all kinds of complications that can arise. Properties transfer, or are left in the name of a descendant, can makes collecting difficult.

SPECIAL GUEST- Bryon Short - Wanted to make sure he addressed our concerns, so he opened the floor for questions.

- Death Penalty- Is there anything we can do to make sure that the death penalty bill come up for a vote? Bryon is on this issue as the sponsor of the bill. It will come up for a vote this week. He encouraged residents to reach out individually on issues like this by contacting members of the committee; it is important. Even a few lines.
- Municipal Street Aid- Part of budget process. His anticipated is that it will be around \$4 million. There are significant budget challenges. We have been very successful at collect revenues to cover costs, but many of those streams are slowing or disappearing (building, casinos). Govt working on how to adjust.
- Light at Harvey and Sconset- Montessori gets a left green light, a left light going from Harvey to Sconset still is not there. This is a safety hazard, we need a way to make that left more safely. Bryon has read emails from constituent on this topic, but after reviewing with DeIDOT a left green light would not meet federal standards.
- Bryon then went to Troop One and received a revealing accident report showing 10 serious accidents in just the last few years. There is significant speeding on that stretch of the road. Bryon could reach out to the police to step up enforcement periodically. Speed limit sign does not appear on the westbound lane until nearly Veale Road.
- Additionally, when walking on Sconset Road to cross Harvey Road at the crosswalk, you have to cross Sconset Road in a blind curve. It is a terribly dangerous place for pedestrians. This is also a location for a school bus stop.
- Bryon is open to working with a small group of residents to work with DeIDOT to examine the issue. This may or may not be successful.
- Marsh to Harvey has a no turn on red sign. Can't that sign be moved to the traffic light so people can see it?

Meeting Adjourned- 8:38pm