

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 9, 2016. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Allan Kleban | 13. Mhairi Craig | 25. Renata Brito-Cherrin |
| 2. Harry Themal | 14. Sandy Landerl | 26. Steven Curley |
| 3. Betty Ann Themal | 15. Pat Lane | 27. Sandi Cooper |
| 4. Joan Fitzgerald | 16. Chris Monson | 28. Michelle Lauer |
| 5. Bob Lockerman | 17. Hans Francke | 29. Maureen Gordon |
| 6. Steve Cohen | 18. Katrina Nelson | 30. Allison Wakelin |
| 7. Cheryl Reagan | 19. Shelley Robyn | 31. Elaine Schmerling |
| 8. June Kleban | 20. Annie Gutsche | 32. Sharon Kleban |
| 9. Rusty Hoegger | 21. Janet Cosgrove | 33. Anne P Lutz |
| 10. Hugh Phibbs | 22. Sue Cherrin | 34. Holly Custer |
| 11. Drew Hansen | 23. Melissa Parsonson | 35. Bryon Short (guest) |
| 12. Terri Hansen | 24. William Parsonson | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

Special Guest State Representative Bryon Short addressed the meeting prior to start of official business.

Cheryl Regan asked if there is any progress or work on traffic calming at Harvey and Sconset. Rep. Short has no new information and will check.

Alison Wakelin- Constitutionality of Death Penalty- Rep. Short supports repeal of the law. Rep. Shawn Lynn is the sponsor and stands ready to move ahead. Rep. Short is co-sponsor and is in full support.

Harry Themal- Are there any extra funds for a large road work project. Can he help us with it? Rep. Short will look into it. Each representative gets a fund of money to put towards road work in non-municipal areas. He will check to see if we are eligible and get back to the Town Chair.

Rep. Short shared that he is working on legislation regarding massage parlors in our area (and in many other areas). A constituent came to him with a quality of life complaint. He checked in with police and was told that massage parlor owners can pull their current women out and have new ones sent in by human traffickers in New York. Other states have not been successful in addressing this. Bryon is working with multiple governmental and local groups to begin to develop a legislative effort to address this problem.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 2016 meeting were approved as written. Accepted unanimously.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting:

Tara Kelly and Mike Fish moving from 1505 Harvey Road.

John and Sandy McCormick have moved into 2204 Sconset Road.

14 residents at Ivy Gables.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer

Operating Accounts:	\$ 49,306.17
Municipal Street Aid:	\$ 2,358.78
Arden Building and Loan:	\$ 23,029.13
Total Funds Available:	\$ 74,694.08

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Andrew Hansen reporting:

WEBSITE- The survey garnered 36 responses, mostly from residents of Ardentown and a few from the other villages. Overall, responders showed an interest in having the site focus on matters related to the government of our town. Details including contact information for officers and trustees, committees and committee members, who to contact for what, etc. were all popular topics. Also of interest were village history, maps, and details about our state and local government representatives.

In April, Drew attended a workshop hosted by the Municipal Website Developers Group, which is overseen by Delaware's Government Information Center, or GIC. The GIC is available as a free resource to build and host an Ardentown website. Another option is to work with a web development contractor.

The planning committee is working now on a website content outline to secure a contractor bid and finalize a decision about how best to move forward.

Paths

In April, the Planning Committee met with representatives of the Wilmington Area Planning Council, or WILMAPCO. In response to a project proposal request submitted by the committee last year, WILMAPCO has agreed to review the path plan that was prepared in 2013. As part of that process they will work with other agencies to make recommendations for improving the plan and the paths and for securing any necessary funds.

Janet Cosgrove requested more information on the intentions for the paths. Drew responded that currently, there is no defined plan or agenda for a finished product (e.g. mulched, paved, marked, ADA compliant). Paths are historical features.

What is WILMAPCO looking for in return? Right now, nothing. At no point will choices or decisions be made without Town vote and approval. The conversation with WILMAPCO is entirely non-binding. Ardentown is not obligated to accept any part of the suggestions WILMAPCO comes up with if the Town Meeting votes against it.

Hardy Hoegger commented that he would like to see more use of the Ardentown woods. Right now we have 4 paths and previously plans were made for more; could WILMAPCO help with that. Drew's understanding is that they might be able to do that.

Renata Brito-Cherrin advised that the village may want to keep in mind that if we accept money there could be strings attached. We could also consider other ways to do this ourselves, recruiting groups, etc. She encourages anyone interested to email her.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Thernal reporting:

The Committee is getting estimates for work on depressions in the grassy area outside the fence on Swiss Lane. The Trustees have agreed to cover the cost for this work. The fence around the property has been inspected and any repairs can likely be handled by Hal Goodwin's crew.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs:

The gutter work and road repair on Woodland was completed in April. We are looking for additional funds to pave in front of the Candlelight Theater. Another area that we are hoping to tackle is Sconset road between the intersections of The Mall (both directions).

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan:

18 Signs have been ordered through DCI (Delaware Correctional Industries), at a lower cost than the previous vendor. These will come already finished with exterior paint. We will add reflective glass bead, and the signs will be installed as soon as possible. Most of the signs will be for the Sconset Road area. A few of the poles will need replacing with these signs.

At the request of residents, a stop sign has been installed at Swiss and Via Italia. Because it is new, let's keep an eye on them.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano:

A request has been made to pick up the sand barrels.

Trees/Public Areas/Paths - Elaine:

On Sunday April 24 we held our 2016 Arbor Day Tree Planting. We planted the saucer magnolia donated for our participation in the program. Present were Elaine Schmerling, Annie Gutsche, Cheryl, and Joan Fitzgerald with her granddaughter and great-grandson Aiden. The 2016 Arbor Day proclamation was read to the town.

Annie Gutsche and Elaine Schmerling checked on and weeded our native plantings at Harvey & Sconset. Still need to continue to pick up trash and cut invasives, but the site now includes milkweed, purple coneflowers, violets, black-eyed susans, asters, and goldenrods. Barbara is also planting some items and we hope to have a beautiful pollinator spot especially for the monarchs. Let Elaine Schmerling know if you want to help in this effort here or at another roadside.

Thanks to Helga Melton who donated a new Dawn Redwood, planted on the lower corner of the Petit Green, and Allan Kleban who has been monitoring the new tree.

Fallen trees in the Glen were removed from the path below Appletree Lane entrance. Continue to inform Elaine of downed trees.

A resident asked about trustee vs. leaseholder responsibility: a tree that was on a combination of two leaseholds and village land was removed, but ivy was left behind. The leaseholders asked who is responsible for the ivy removal. The Trustees answered that they covered the cost of removing the tree, and the ivy removal will be the responsibility of the leaseholders.

Compost Area:

Drainage is better. Plantings, especially rescued plantings, are coming in well. Need to spend a day there weeding/mulching with leaves. Any helpers?

Sunnyside (Chris):

Chris Monson and Elaine Schmerling removed a shed that was built in Sunnyside, cleared out fire pits and posted "Sunnyside Nature Preserve" signs. Chris put a note on a tent that was set up there, that this is a natural area and no camping is allowed. The tent was removed, presumably by the owners.

We have set aside the following **Saturday, May 21, 10 am to take interested Ardentown residents into Sunnyside.**
Raindate: Sunday, May 22.

Misc:

If you are having any work done that requires a contractor to park on any of the greens, please make sure they fix any ruts left when they are done. Ruts were left by Ron's tree service on the Henry George Green and whichever company removed the Elm from the Petit Green left many deep gouges.

Pictures of the bulletin board that fell over from rot are being sent to DCI to get an estimate on replacement. The old one is really beyond repair at this point.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Steven Curley - Nothing to report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal - Work is being done to address a spring located under the Candlelight building that is causing trouble. Work is also being done to the Box Office to insulate.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen - Work continues to complete the exterior resurfacing and painting. Rentals are healthy as are community events. Building budget is projected to be revenue neutral at the end of the fiscal year.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Hans Francke reporting: During the ACRA House and Garden Tour the Ardensingers will be performing at the Museum. Archives is in the process of updating the walking tour map. All of the paths are on the map.

Harry pointed out that the maps of the three Ardens are inaccurate and Lisa Mullinax is trying to update them.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Now that the weather is warmer there tends to be an increase in mischief and vandalism; residents are encouraged to make reports to New Castle County Police.

Parking Reminder: Please do not park on the street; ordinance says you must park on your leasehold.

Letter regarding interest in placement of a cell phone tower - no suitable property found, no further follow-up.

ELECTIONS:

Public Works Committee. Elaine Schmerling, Paul Romagano, and Susan Merkle were all willing to stand for reelection and were unanimously re-elected.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a vacancy on the Planning Committee with the departure of Mike Fish.

September Meeting will be held at Ivy Gables to accommodate tech week at Ivy Gables.

A resident asked for an update on the Murray Leasehold. Another resident expressed concern regarding the cats on the leasehold; they are being cared for but there is no plan. Joan Fitzgerald answered that the AB&L is in the process of taking control of the property. Multiple violations cited by NCC Code Enforcement are being addressed. Everyone wants this addressed as quickly as possible but there are legal steps to be taken.

Cheryl Regan addressed an issue about a shed at 2312 Brae and said it is going to be moved. Joan Fitzgerald reminded residents that when a leasehold is transferred, a survey is done so that both Trustees and Leaseholders are aware of where property lines are.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully Submitted

Terri Hansen