

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on Monday, May 14, 2018. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Cheryl Regan | 16. Anne P. Lutz | 31. Katrina Nelson |
| 2. Joan Fitzgerald | 17. Mhairi Craig | 32. Alison Wakelin |
| 3. Shari Phalan | 18. Shelley Robyn | 33. Chris Monson |
| 4. Drew Hansen | 19. Steve Cohen | 34. Judith Kay |
| 5. Terri Hansen | 20. Jeanna Carey | 35. Duane Loeper |
| 6. Pat Lane | 21. Dotty Verne | 36. Lisa Riblett |
| 7. Barbara Mondzelewski | 22. Holly Custer | 37. Sue Cherrin |
| 8. Janna Schefflin | 23. Cathlee Malone | 38. Steven Curley |
| 9. Betty Ann Themal | 24. Janet Cosgove | 39. Maureen Gordon |
| 10. Harry Themal | 25. Christiana Dobrzynski | 40. Sara Stevenson |
| 11. Annie Gutsche | 26. Joe Grippe | 41. Elaine Schmerling |
| 12. Sharon Kleban | 27. Beverly Bizup Hawkins | 42. Renata Brito Cherrin |
| 13. June Kleban | 28. Lindsey Sherwood | 43. Charlotte Curley (resident
minor) |
| 14. Hans Francke | 29. Judy Glenn | 44. Ray Seigfried (guest) |
| 15. Hetty Francke | 30. Cortner Hayflinger | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

SPECIAL GUEST: Ray Seigfried, candidate for the 7th Representative district. He lives in Arden on Hillside Road. Ray is running as a Democrat for the seat being vacated by Bryon Short. He has served on and chaired committees in the Village of Arden. He worked on the ADU exemption for the Ardens, and in 2012 his committee got the vacant property units ordinance passed. He previously worked for Christiana Care as a hospital administrator for 26 years. He has also served as an adjunct professor. Mr. Seigfried took questions from the floor.

County Councilman John Cartier spoke. He has received plans for the Ivy Gables development and will stay to take questions at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 2018 meeting were approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting:

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$48,144.21
Municipal Street Aid:	\$10,067.56
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$23,488.45</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$81,700.22

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Nothing to report- Terri Hansen has reached out to current members of the committee to convene a meeting of the Committee to elect a new chair. Residents are encouraged to look out for a potential public meeting of the planning committee to look for new projects and ideas.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting: The Committee revised the Memorial Garden regulations to include a sentence under the Markers section to include those markers supplied by the military be accepted, provided they do not exceed 12 x 24 inches.

The Committee is planning a schedule for new plantings around the garden, being mindful of using native plants. Planting to be completed this Fall.

PUBLIC WORKS: Cheryl Regan reporting:

Signs: Most of the wooden road signs have been replaced. The one word "AppleTree Lane" signs will be replaced with the new two word signs. The Trustees will look into the issue of spelling of the street name - there are conflicting sources of information. There are a few more posts to be stained which should be done if the rain stops anytime soon. Reflectors were installed on the wooden road signs that sit on Harvey Road. A post will be installed at the Brae Road turnaround to hang the "No dumping" sign back on. An inventory of the metal road signs that need replacing will be done so we can see what we need to order.

Roads: Hal and crew are working on filling potholes. We asked Hal to remove the tape from the 7 speed bumps that were painted last year. He said he would look into it.

Residents living on Swiss Lane and Via Italia are very concerned with the speed of traffic on Swiss Lane and had previously requested speed bumps. The town decided to try a stop sign at Swiss Lane and Via Italia. This has not abated the problem - residents observe that very few drivers obey the stop sign. Traffic has increased with delivery trucks, tractor trailers, residents, visitors, Candlelight patrons and more. Since Swiss is a main artery into the community, they are once more requesting that the town intervene and install 2 speed bumps; the request letter is on file.

Misc: We are looking into a replacement bench for the one that is broken on the Pettit green.

Natural lands: Elaine Schmerling reporting:

1) Street trees – Thanks to Allan Kleban for pruning the trees on the Pettit Green. Could use a few helpers for Fall pruning, and to adopt a few trees to clear weeds/grass around (thanks to Christiana, who will help with the trees by her house). If everyone takes 4 or 5, the committee won't feel so overwhelmed.

2) Earthday Cleanup – Janna Schefflin brought 10 students, and we pulled trash from both the railroad tracks and Compost area. Jeff Martin & Elaine took down what looked like a zip line that had been started down behind the Wallace's house, running from their shed, under a downed tree, then down the hill 12' up a tree and down to a beech tree that the wire was girdling – it had been on this one for awhile. We took what we could away including 2 tires attached to the wire, and an apparatus for hanging. Terry Harvey thought it hadn't been used in at least a year. This type of activity is very destructive to already stressed woodlands.

3) Natural Lands – Janna had more students pull garlic mustard in the Ardentown lands other side of Marsh Rd., by her house and only got to a little bordering the stream at the Bickhart property. Redtail Restoration came out one day in Sunnyside. We have more work to do everywhere. Have some rescue work started near Apple Tree Lane, at the entrance to the Glen. Last fall we cleared some honeysuckle and planted several trees which Nick will help clear...he plans to take down the remaining tall Norway maples at the top. The lower part is covered in honeysuckle, which has smothered everything. Plan to have Redtail work on it.

4) ARBOR DAY & tree plantings – We planted 2 trees with the other towns on Saturday 4/28. Two paw paws planted in the Glen behind the Schmerlings' house, and 2 more red cedars by the stream below playground.

5) FOREST EDUCATION: Since the last meeting, we have had the geology walk, Forest Celebration, the Ardens were inducted into the Old Growth Community Network and Barbara led a lovely bird walk. Next is the Human History walk to the Old Arden Pool on June 23rd.

6) NWF Application Announcement! As a celebration of our work in preserving our forests and natural habitats in our community, we are working towards becoming a National Wildlife Federation Community! The National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program began 40 years ago to support and empower communities to take positive action for wildlife habitats in their own communities through education and wildlife friendly practices. Ardentown, by our very nature and practices already embodies NWF's goal of maintaining wildlife habitats while educating and engaging community members.

Why would we want to certify with NWF? For Ardentown not only will it be recognition for a job well done, but we will have access to NWF's best practices resources, and networking opportunities with other like-minded

communities. Plus, we can get a really cool sign...!

The entire certification process can take about 2 years. I will keep everyone updated at meetings and through our bulletin periodically. There is a small annual fee which is being covered privately as a donation.

If anyone is interested in becoming an individual NWF member, or would like further information, please take a look at www.nwf.org or www.nwf.org/community.

7) Paths – PW&S Committee wants to work on re-clearing and labeling paths. There had been a plan for a path naming contest, but we have decided to color-code paths for now. Christiana to head this and work with Cheryl on posts, can use our budget for posts and markers.

8) Compost Area – Have not had time to clear it up, and the spring has been so cold and wet. Plan to try to have the compost covered with landscape cloth so it doesn't have to be emptied of water.

A resident expressed his concerns about Station Path, which parallels Harvey Road and The Mall. He finds the condition degrading and becoming more dangerous. Public Works committee will take a look and address.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Cortney Hayflinger reporting: a Spring spruce-up of the park is planned for this Saturday, May 19 at 10 am.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Thernal, Joan Fitzgerald and Pat Lane reporting:
The roof of the Candlelight has been replaced and carries a 25 year guarantee.

There are signs up in the Village detailing the preliminary plans for Ivy Gables. A drop off drive is planned for the new memory wing on Millers Road. Residents expressed their concerns around visual impact, loss of old growth trees. There are still quite a few steps in the process before any construction will start (Trustees need to approve, a hearing is planned at the County for County Historic Overlay status in June, they will also have to have a zoning variance which will have to go before the County.)

Before any plans are approved, the Trustees will call a separate community meeting to have Ivy Gables address the concerns of the residents and leaseholders. Janet Cosgrove plans to gather interested residents and leaseholders for a meeting to discuss this development, ahead of the community wide meeting.

The Trustees asked Mr. Cartier to address the news that County taxes will increase by 15%. Mr Cartier explained that the County taxes represents only about 30% of the total tax bill; the rest goes to local schools. Budget vote is May 22nd and open to the public. If Council does not approve the budget as submitted by the County Executive, the Council and the Executive will have to come to an agreement.

Parking on the Greens is against the ordinance, please park on leaseholds.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen - Art on the Town and The Coffeehouse will occur in June and then suspend until the Fall. Strength and Mobility and Yoga will continue through the Summer, only relocating to the Gild for the duration of the ACRA co-op.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Hans Francke reporting:

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting: The three village chairs have been working hard to set up a meeting with DelDOT to find ways to mitigate overflow traffic from the I-95 Marsh Road interchange project. A meeting will be set up in the next couple of weeks.

A resident expressed her concern about the impact on Marsh Road, which affects two Ardentown leaseholds. The speed on Marsh Road is already terrible, and there have been multiple bad accidents. She would like Marsh Road to be included in the discussion. Mr Cartier expresses his concern for that situation. He informed us that Marsh and Harvey are state roads and we need to work with the state.

Terri Hansen asks that residents all drive 25 on Harvey Road to act as traffic calming.

Annie Gutsche asks that residents collect data around accidents, traffic, speed, etc, and email them to her for use.

ELECTIONS:

Public Works and Safety- Anne Lutz, Elaine Schmerling, Paul Romagano- elected unanimously
Audit- Steven Curley, Andrew Hansen- elected unanimously

NEW BUSINESS: Renata Brito-Cherrin addressed the meeting, she is the volunteer coordinator for Joe Daigle who is also running for the 7th Representative District.

A resident raised a question about the Station Path - was it incorporated into the Ivy Gables property or did it remain town property? Trustee responded the County sees that as one property, which contains 8 leaseholds. The Village maintains the path and Ivy Gables does not pay land rent on it. This path will remain accessible to the community. She is concerned that Ivy Gables is not paying a fair share on the leasehold. Trustees agreed to look into the figures and communicate to the Meeting in September

Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Hansen