

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 13, 2019. Alison Wakelin, Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Terri Hansen | 14. John H McCormick | 28. Cort Hayflinger |
| 2. Andrew Hansen | 15. Edmond Bischoff | 29. Janna Schefflin |
| 3. Cheryl Regan | 16. Hans Francke | 30. Lisa Wilson Ribblett |
| 4. Steven R Cohen | 17. Hetty Francke | 31. Pat Phillips |
| 5. Cindy Cohen | 18. Janet Cosgrove | 32. Christiana
Dobrzynski |
| 6. Alison Wakelin | 19. Pat Lane | 33. Chris Monson |
| 7. Joan Fitzgerald | 20. Bob Lockerman | 34. Katrina Nelson |
| 8. Barbara Conway | 21. Oliver Gutsche | 35. Holly Custer |
| 9. Terry Harvey | 22. Harry Thernal | 36. Kelly Lyons (guest) |
| 10. Anne P Lutz | 23. Maureen Gordon | 37. Cheryl Dunford
(guest) |
| 11. Page Dwyer | 24. Judy Glenn | |
| 12. Kat Muller | 25. Elaine Schmerling | |
| 13. Betty Ann Thernal | 26. Hardy Hoegger | |
| | 27. Mhairi J Craig | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by for Alison Wakelin, Town Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS

Alison addressing- An ad hoc committee was formed to create a motion to amend the bylaws to create an Assessment Committee, as directed by the Deed of Trust

Joe Grippe took questions

Oliver Gutsche- What is the purpose of the Assessment Committee? Why?

Joe Grippe- The Deed of Trust directs the Town to have an Assessment Committee that consults with the Trustees regarding Land Rent

Alison Wakelin- Arden has an Assessment Committee, which goes out and assesses all properties, this won't be like that. This Committee is consulting in nature

Cindy Cohen- Does the Committee need 4 meetings a year? Isn't that a little much?

Janet Cosgrove- Maybe in a couple of years we might not need that many meetings, or meetings might be quite short

Terry Harvey- Similar to the Budget Committee, but that Committee has a defined purpose and product. Could this amendment add to include specific mission

Oliver Gutsche- Was there ever an Assessment Committee?

Harry Thernal- Yes there was, it merged at some point with Budget

Joan Fitzgerald- We looked into it and tried to find out why it was dissolved. Still the language is in the Deed of Trust so we have no problem with this

Oliver Gutsche- Have the Trustees ever reported to the Town

Harry Themal- We submit a budget to the Town Meeting every year. The County assesses County Tax, based on value. Land Rent is based on square footage..

Alison Wakelin- Clearly there are questions around the Land Rent process, and this Committee could answer these questions.

Tim Donovan- Doesn't the Budget Committee do the same thing?

Alison Wakelin- No

Cindy Cohen- Can you give us an overview of what this would do

Joe Grippe- there are a lot of broad questions that this Committee could help answer questions, clarify discounts and factors

Steve Cohen- On Number 3, on Suffrage- You have 6 months, is that illegal? No,

Moved- to amend the Bylaws to create a standing committee called the Assessment Committee:

The Assessment Committee shall consist of three qualified voters elected for a term of two years at the regular September Town Meeting. Two members shall be elected in even years and one member in odd years. The chairpersons of the Budget Committee and the Audit Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Assessment Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Assessment Committee to consult with the Trustees with respect to the setting of Land Rent. Committee meetings shall be held quarterly prior to regular meetings of the Town Meetings. The Assessment Committee may meet at other times as necessary. The Trustees shall attend not fewer than two of the Assessment Committee meetings, one of which shall be the Assessment Committee meeting prior to the November Town Meeting.

The Assessment Committee shall provide an annual report to the Village of Ardentown at the November Town Meeting. In addition, at each Town Meeting, the Assessment Committee shall report to the Village information relevant to land rent and tax assessment.

Motion passed- 30 in favor, 4 abstentions.

Motion to amend the Bylaws to create continuity:

- 1) *Standardize format by adding Sections, Sub Sections, and numbering the pages for ease of reading and discussion.*
- 2) *Sec 6, Committees, add Assessment Committee to the list of committees*
- 3) *Sec 6.3, add Assessment Committee between 6.2 Archive Committee and 6.4 Audit Com*
- 4) *Sec 6.10, Registration Committee, add Assessment Committee to the Schedule of Elections and Committee Reports*

The word Chairperson is used throughout the Bylaws except in 2 places. Change the word Chairman to Chairperson in Sec 5.3 (Treasurer) and Sec 9 (Amendments).

Motion passed

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Cindy Cohen reporting:

Leasehold Changes:

- **Brian & Mary Ann Patterson** have now moved into their home at 2312 Brae Road (was Dick Cannon's property). A Welcome packet was delivered to them on May 5th.
- **Joseph & Lee Painter**, who bought the Solway property at 1517 Woodland Road, appear to still be in the process of building a new home on the property. Awaiting them to deliver their Welcome packet. (Left them a Welcome note in their mailbox, but it appeared that no mail is being delivered there.)
- **Susie Ambry** and adult daughter, **Katherine (Kat) Muller**, are renting "the Peace House" at 2316 Orchard Road. Susie was in poor health and her daughter moved in with her to care for her. They moved in in April, and sadly, we learned that Susie passed away later in the month. We offer our condolences to Kat and the rest of Susie's family.
- **Lauren Burslem** has returned to Joan Fitzgerald's rental at 1707 Harvey Road. We are thrilled to have Lauren back in Ardentown.
- Alison Wakelin's daughter, **Maurisa Byer**, has recently moved back home to 2206 Sconset Road.
- **Cort(ney) Hayflinger** and family have moved into 1513 Woodland Road (was the Wallace's house). And **Clare Consavage** has moved into the apartment on the property.
- We understand **Hetty & Hans Francke's** leasehold is about to change over to **Samantha _____** later this month. We'll follow up with a Welcome packet to her soon.
- **If you know of any other leasehold changes, or changes in rentals** within Ardentown, please see one of the Registration Committee members after the meeting tonight (members are myself: Cindy Cohen, Betty Ann Themal, and Maureen Gordon), or contact one of us directly. It takes a village to keep track of all the comings and goings of our residents.

Summer Potluck:

The Registration Committee is sponsoring an **Ardentown-wide summer potluck picnic, on Sunday, June 23rd, from 3-5 pm, on the Pettit Green. Come join your neighbors - young and old!** The committee will provide burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, paper products, and beverages. All other food will be potluck. If you have a favorite chair or outdoor game, bring it along! Please mark your calendars and come out on **Sunday, June 23rd!**

We have fliers here tonight - do take one if you'd like, and share with your neighbors. We can use a few grills, some coolers, tables, chairs and tents, if you have any you'd be willing to let us borrow for the event. **We have sign-up sheets** for those too that we'll pass around.

We're looking forward to this fun, family-friendly event. Hopefully it will become an annual event for the neighborhood.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$48,726.66
Municipal Street Aid:	\$29,223.79
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$19,965.18</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$97,915.63

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting, No report but we have a couple of mysterious happenings. Sometime in April flags were put out, anyone know who did that? Four chairs have appeared in the garden. Please be alert and see if you see anything mysterious happening. Cortney Hayflinger saw someone bring a chair in. Didn't know who that was.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Elaine Schmerling reporting: Tree of Heaven - Lanternfly can travel about ½ mile every day, unless they hitch a ride on a car, truck, train, trailer. The full sized bugs won't be seen until October.

There are several Tree of Heaven in Sunnyside. If lanternfly are confirmed, the State of Delaware will come in and kill the trees or treat the trees to kill the spotted lanternfly. No native insects eat the Tree of Heaven, only spotted lanternfly eats that. Elaine Schmerling would like to get permission from the town to sign a consent form with the State to treat and kill these trees. There is little risk to safety, since it is in Sunnyside and there are no leaseholds.

Janet Cosgrove- this is only Sunnyside? Elaine Schmerling, yes

Terry Harvey- moves to give Alison Wakelin permission to sign the consent agreement with the State.

Motion passed unanimously

Alison Wakelin- Many thanks to Elaine Schmerling for all of her hard work and enthusiasm

BUZZ COMMITTEE: no report

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal- Cathy Cloutier would like to place a historic marker for the Candlelight Theater

Pat Lane- minimal work on the trees. Tree on Pettit Green which was dying and dropping limb.

Cherry tree on the end of the Mall which was dropping limbs

Joan Fitzgerald- Land Rents have been coming in and we will be able to transfer money to the Town for the Roads funds. Mowing at the Memorial Garden, the gentleman who was doing the mowing had started using heavy equipment

Steve Cohen- with the change from the NCC tax increase

Harry Themal- He plans to call the County Executive's office to get clarification

Joan Fitzgerald- we have the funds

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Wakelin reporting-

- We have entered the time of the year where there is a ban on open burning, please check on the State Of Delaware website for restrictions
- Internship- Alison Wakelin would like to restart the Internship Program.
- Mosquitoes- This is to sign up for the State's mosquitoes program. Approval from the floor.
- Governor wants us to join his "Keep Delaware Litter Free," approval from the floor
- Property taxes- In the last several years the NCC has used its reserves and has had to raise property taxes by 15%. They also "rebalanced" based on services municipalities use from the County. The property tax is not a large part of our Land Rent. The increase is only on about 20% of our tax bill. Meeting to approve this is May 28 in the County Building. It looks to pass.

Ray Seigfried- guest- If you look at all of the Charters for the Ardens, we are not in sync with the State Budget, which caused the problem between land rent being collected before we were told of the increase in the taxes.

Since our last meeting he has spoken with Anne P Lutz and met with Pat Lane about the intersection of Sconset and Harvey Road. DelDOT is working on redesigning that intersection and will be presenting that in the future.

He plans to start a traffic calming effort from Philadelphia Pike to Marsh Road.

Cathy Cloutier- Historical marker for the Candlelight Theatre only if it gets approval from the Trustees and the Town Meeting.

ELECTIONS:

Public Works

Audit- Terry Harvey, Elected unanimously

OLD BUSINESS-

Hans Francke- Hetty and I have been reflecting on our time here in the Ardens. We are leaving the Ardens in a time of year when the villages are extra lovely

A couple of things extra close to our hearts- ACRA, the Craft Shop Museum

Will try to keep in touch, especially through the Dinner Guild. Closing on the leasehold on Thursday and as of Friday they will be official residents of Maris Grove

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara Conway- any Ivy Gables update? Harry Themal- final plans are crawling through the NCC process

Cheryl Dunford, marketing consultant and Kelly Lyons Community Relations Coordinator- they don't have any news to share.

Janet Cosgrove- If anyone wants to read through them and make tweaks now.....

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen