

Nov 2006  
Minutes

# Village of Ardentown

Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975

Ardentown, Del. 19810

## NOTICE

### **ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre**

**Monday, February 12, 2007  
7:30 pm**

### **AGENDA (partial)**

1. Elections: Archives, and Memorial Garden Committees (November)  
Budget Committee – remainder of term through Sept. 2008
2. Elections for May: Public Works and Safety, Playground, and Audit
3. Vote on Sunnyside Tract Agreement with DNREC  
Eileen Butler, DNREC
4. Committee Reports

A quorum is needed at the town meeting, please join us.

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THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDENTOWN WAS  
CONVENED AT 7:30 ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006.  
STEVE COHEN PRESIDING. A QUARUM WAS PRESENT.

In attendance were:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Steve Cohen           | 18. Drew Hansen           |
| 2. Kate O'Grady          | 19. Bob DeNigris          |
| 3. Dorothy Dixon         | 20. Gil Johnston          |
| 4. Dotty Verne           | 21. Betty Ann Themal      |
| 5. Hardy Hoegger         | 22. Harry Themal          |
| 6. Sally Decker          | 23. Elaine Schmerling     |
| 7. Doris Boller          | 24. Mary Ann Nelson       |
| 8. Alison Byer           | 25. Sheila Johnston       |
| 9. Janet Cosgrove        | 26. Joy Mulholland        |
| 10. David Scott          | 27. Warren Butts          |
| 11. Enno Krebbers        |                           |
| 12. Pat Lane             |                           |
| 13. Joan Fitzgerald      |                           |
| 14. Barbara Mondzelewski | Guests:                   |
| 15. Cheryl Regan         | 1. Eileen Butler, DNRC,   |
| 16. Cindy Cohen          | Office of Nature Preserve |
| 17. Maureen Gordon       |                           |

**PRESENTATION:** Guest speaker Eileen Butler, DNREC, Office of Nature Preserve, gave us an update on dedicating the Sunnyside Tract as a nature preserve. She referred to the deed already between Ardentown and DelDot providing a greater ability to enforce the restrictions agreed upon in the articles of dedication. The restrictions would address the problems of people using the property for paint ball and ATV use as well as camping. We agreed to vote on adopting the recommendation from Eileen Butler to follow-thru on dedicating the Sunnyside Tract as a nature preserve at the February town meeting. Steve Cohen asked the residents to indicate their position using a "sense of the community" vote. The preliminary vote was unanimous in favor of the nature preserve status.

**MINUTES:** Approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Barbara Mondzelewski  
Operating Accounts: \$13,459.85

Municipal Street Aid:	12,207.33
Arden Building & Loan:	21,362.68
Total Funds Available:	\$47,029.86

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Sheila Johnston, Chair  
Allan and Sharon Kleban have moved from Arden to 1602 Appletree Lane.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Alison Byer, Chair  
Two teens applied for the Internship and there are 2 more younger ones ready for next year. There are 10 teens in Ardentown.  
It was suggested that the committee address health issues as a community.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** Rusty Hoegger, Chair  
No report.

**PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:** Elaine Schmerling  
Weeds were cut and woodchips moved to the two paths to the playground.  
Playground equipment looks good. When the weather turns colder we'll take off the teatherball for the winter.

**BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER:** Beverley Fleming  
Continued progress on the BWVC. No report on new business.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Mary Ann Nelson  
Roads – Drew Hanson has received an estimate from Downing for road repairs and we have had to prioritize because there is not enough money in Municipal Street aid to do everything. It was decided to repair Swiss Lane and East Mall and have the speed bumps repainted. Possible options for the dip on Sconset Road, the rain gutters on Woodland and drainage in the compost site are being considered.

Compost Site – Leaves have been left at the site from individuals in the 3 Ardens and compost provided by Delaware Solid Waste Authority has been distributed with the assistance of Hetty Francke. 50 lb. bags of screened compost was available to be picked up through November.

Snow Plowing and Sand Barrels – David Byer has signed a snow removal contract with Burslem for our plowing and applied for sand barrels for the hilly areas in town. He is our snow contact person if anyone has concerns about plowing.

Signs – Cheryl Regan has some new signs and is arranging for their installation. One of the new signs is for the Compost site.

Paths – Elaine Schmerling has acquired and has planted trees and shrubs paid for by the Department of Forestry Tree Planting Grant. They include 20 dogwoods on the Mall and

screening around the compost area. We have been awarded a new grant from New Castle County Council for removing Norway Maples and Ivy, replanting and botanist studies. Thanks to Hetty Francke and Elaine Schmerling for getting the \$5,620 grant from CEPF, Community Environmental Protection Fund.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT: Harry Themal**

A lot of maintenance was done on the trees this year. The tree budget is exhausted. The County Taxes are going up 10% for 2007.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Steve Cohen**

Multiple Domiciles – Going forward with existing leaseholds with more than one family unit to be grandfathered under the same regulations as the other Ardens.

Flood Insurance – 3 houses in the annex are affected by this.

Comcast/Verizon Negotiations – There was discussion on signing a Verizon agreement for cable tv with a bonus for signing. A special meeting is to be held December 12 to vote for approval of agreement.

**ELECTIONS:**

Chair: Steve Cohen, 1 year term

Secretary: Joan Fitzgerald, 1 year term

Treasurer: Barbara Mondzelewski, 1 year term

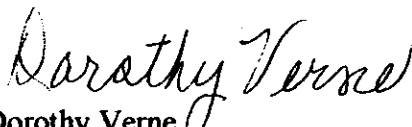
Community Planning: Alison Byer and Drew Hansen, 2 year terms

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sima Krucheski is asking for 2 volunteers to run the Gardeners Gild Booth at the Fair. Sima has done it for many years.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dorothy Verne  
Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TO CONSIDER PASSING RESOLUTION GRANTING  
VERIZON A FRANCHISE FOR CABLE TV SERVICE**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2006  
7PM AT THE NEW CANDLELIGHT THEATER**

**ONLY ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS THE FRANCHISE TO  
VERIZON SO THE MEETING WILL BE VERY SHORT  
FRANCHISE SUMMARY IS ENCLOSED**

**THEN, BOTH COMCAST AND VERIZON WILL  
HAVE FRANCHISES FROM THE VILLAGE  
TO PROVIDE CABLE TV SERVICE  
WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL DRIVE PRICES DOWN.  
THIS PROVIDES YOU WITH A CHOICE OF PROVIDERS**

**HOLIDAY DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED!!  
(NOTE: COST OF THIS MAILING AND FOOD PAID FOR BY VERIZON)**

**THE REQUIRED 25 SIGNATURES TO CALL THIS  
SPECIAL MEETING HAVE BEEN GATHERED**

**WE NEED A QUORUM OF 25 CITIZENS IN ORDER  
TO VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION**

**ARDENCROFT HAS PASSED THEIR RESOLUTION  
AND ARDEN WILL VOTE ON THEIRS ON DEC 11**

**TV SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ARDENTOWN  
RESIDENTS VERY SHORTLY AFTER THE  
RESOLUTION PASSES AND THE FRANCHISE IS AWARDED**



**STEVEN R. COHEN  
TOWN CHAIR**

## **SUMMARY OF CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN VERIZON AND THE VILLAGE OF ARDENTOWN**

**The cable franchise agreement between Verizon and Ardentown includes the following key provisions:**

- The agreement grants Verizon a nonexclusive franchise to construct and operate a cable system in Ardentown (note: fiber optic cable will be on telephone poles and much of the fiber optic is in place today in the Ardens)
- Verizon will use its upgraded Fiber to the Premises telecommunications network (“FTTP Network”) to provide cable service to the Village.
- The term of the agreement is 15 years. Verizon will pay the Village the 3% franchise fee to the Village (same as Comcast does today)
- Verizon will provide cable service at no charge to municipal buildings in The Ardens (Gild Hall, Buzz Ware, Craft Shop Museum, Candlelight Theater)
- Verizon must connect, at its expense, all residential dwelling units within 125 feet of the trunk or feeder lines not already served by the FTTP Network.
- Verizon will indemnify the Village against any liability for damages or claims resulting from property damage or bodily injury if the company is found to have been negligent in its construction, operation, or maintenance of its cable system.
- Verizon will maintain sufficient levels of General and Automobile Liability, Workers’ Compensation, and Employers’ Liability Insurance.
- The Village may follow procedures outlined in the agreement if it believes that Verizon has not complied with the terms of the franchise agreement. The Village may even revoke the franchise under certain circumstances.
- Verizon will maintain a toll-free number to receive all calls and inquiries from subscribers regarding cable service. The company will respond to subscriber complaints within 24 hours.
- Verizon representatives will be on hand at the meeting to answer your questions and to provide information on their new services for your consideration.

