

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, November 14, 2016. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Betty Ann Themal | 13. Pat Lane | 25. Steven Curley |
| 2. Harry Themal | 14. Andrew Hansen | 26. Suzanne Cherrin |
| 3. Joan Fitzgerald | 15. Terri Hansen | 27. Peter W. Slattery |
| 4. Cheryl Regan | 16. Bobby Lockerman | 28. Chris Monson |
| 5. Holly Custer | 17. Joan Wharburton-Phibbs | 29. Cindy Cohen |
| 6. Anne P. Lutz | 18. Hugh Phibbs | 30. Sandie Cooper |
| 7. Hans Francke | 19. Janet Cosgrove | 31. Renata Brito-Cherrin |
| 8. Steve Cohen | 20. Melissa Parsonson | 32. Michelle Lauer |
| 9. Hardy Hoegger | 21. William Parsonson | 33. Maureen Gordon |
| 10. Rusty Hoegger | 22. Barbara Mondzelewski | 34. Elaine Schmerling |
| 11. Annie Gutsche | 23. Suzanne Winkler Maguire | 35. Gavin Klahr |
| 12. Shelley Robyn | 24. Alison Wakelin | 36. Ryan Mawhinney
(Ardencroft guest) |

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

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting:

- Dayna Booth and Kevin Eurich moved in to 1505 Harvey Road, 2nd floor on October 24, 2016 (Leaseholder Sandra Landerl)
- John and Sandy McCormick moved out of 2204 Sconset Road, into (Harvey and Lorelei)
- Liz Ryan and Will Collins moved into 2204 Sconset Road on November 3, 2016 from Little Lane.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$ 48,243.25
Municipal Street Aid:	\$ 1,530.42
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$ 12,488.45</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$ 62,262.12

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Andrew Hansen reporting:

The Planning Committee assembled a steering committee to oversee the development of a plan for the Ardentown paths. The goal of the plan is to identify, preserve, and enhance Ardentown's network of paths. This plan is being developed by town officials, residents, and WILMAPCO with additional guidance from county and state officials to support making Ardentown a more walkable community.

The steering committee comprises the following people:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Drew Hansen, Planning Committee chair | • Chris Monson, Ardentown resident |
| • Janet Cosgrove, Planning Committee member | • Bill Swiatek, Senior Planner, WILMAPCO |
| • Oliver Gutsche, Planning Committee member | • Jacob Thompson, Transportation Planner, WILMAPCO |
| • Hardy Hoegger, Ardentown resident | • Timothy Snow, Planner I, DelDOT |
| • Pat Lane, Ardentown trustee | |

Jacob (Jake) Thompson, Chris Monson, and Drew Hansen met on October 3rd to walk and map all of the passable paths in Ardentown, including those in the woods and Sunnyside Tract.

Members of the steering committee met on October 22 to discuss the process and schedule for developing the path plan. The first major milestone is to gather public input regarding path usage, interests, concerns, and

priorities. For additional information and updates, visit <http://www.wilmapco.org/ardentown/> or the Ardentown Paths Plan page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ardentownpathsplan/>.

Ardentown Municipal Website: Based on community input gathered from the website survey, the Planning Committee developed an outline of site content. In the interest of launching the site as soon as practical, the outline breaks content into two phases. Phase 1 focuses on essential information to establish the overall structure of the site and to ensure the site is useful. Phase 2 will focus on expanding and enhancing the Phase 1 content once the site is live.

In addition to creating the outline, the committee decided on a visual structure for the home page and interior pages of the site, and has begun the work of collecting and writing the necessary content.

On November 1, Drew Hansen met with a representative of the State of Delaware's Government Information Center (GIC), which provides free website building and hosting for incorporated municipalities. The Planning Committee, GIC, and Ardentown secretary will work together to develop a timeline for building and launching the site.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting: Gravel has been placed along the roadside to reduce damage from vehicle traffic. There have been no new interments.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Roads: Cheryl Regan- Two sections of roads have been repaved: Sconset between both ends of The Mall, and in front of the Candlelight Theatre.

Signs: Cheryl Regan- Nothing to report.

Snow/sand: Cheryl Regan- The 2016/2017 snow contract is in the process of being finalized. Sand barrels will be ordered shortly.

Trees/Public Areas: Cheryl Regan for Elaine Schmerling- Three Hackberry seedlings/sprouts have been planted on the Petit Green, corner of Appletree & Orchard. Have \$515 left in Path funds for the remainder of the year.

Compost Area: THANKS TO CHRIS MONSON FOR MOWING this area. Work continues on the wet meadow. Nick Liberman helped remove many invasives.

ARDENTOWN COMPOSTING AREA OPEN, FOR LEAVES ONLY- Leaves can be put into the bin furthest on the right, and into the third bin. Please take as far back as you can, do not leave trash. Compost bins cannot accept trimmings, branches, limbs. The first bin on the left (closest to the playground) should be ready with finished compost to take.

Meadow area: Some swamp milkweed/butterfly weed are coming in. Put seeds of Joe Pye and NY Ironweed. Had to cut back some "good weeds".

Sunnyside: Chris Monson has completed a circular loop path in Sunnyside. He has worked tirelessly all summer so that we don't have to go all the way up to Harvey Rd to go out, but can loop back through Sunnyside.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10-12 (raindate Sunday Nov. 20) we will lead people on a walk to this new path identifying plants/trees along the way. We will try to walk most of the loop first. If time and interest, some can stay on to cut ivy and oriental bittersweet to save the trees (bring clippers, gloves if interested). TOUGH TRAIL only come if you can easily cross the creek twice.

Eileen Butler (DNREC) submitted a trail map of the area with slightly different suggested loop, will revise with her.

Misc: (1) Elaine plans to dedicate her time to Natural Lands preservation, as the Paths Subcommittee under the Planning Committee is up and running. (2) For 2017, Elaine proposes a \$2,500 budget, for ongoing maintenance for our beloved forested areas that are under terrible pressure from invasives. Our Forest Management plan suggests we keep invasives OUT of the pristine areas. Would allocate \$1,000 for pristine areas/stopping seeding, and \$1,500 for highly visible areas - a fraction of the budget Arden has for a smaller amount of land. We also need more volunteers to help.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Steven Curley reporting: Nothing to report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Thernal reporting: The Trustees have now contracted with a bookkeeper. Joan Fitzgerald will continue to handle mailing bills.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen - All exterior work has been completed. Rentals are vigorous and public programming is generally well attended. Committee expects the budget to end the year at or near revenue neutral.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Hans Francke reporting: The current exhibition at the Museum is the history of Arden Club Gilds. For Museum Hours, see <http://www.ardencraftshopmuseum.com/>. All are encouraged to donate to this worthy institution. You can go to <http://www.ardencraftshopmuseum.com/check-or-credit-card.html> to donate online by credit card. More information about giving is available at the website.

Ardentown history is underrepresented in the collection. Donations of materials related to Ardentown history are encouraged. For more information about donating materials, please visit <http://www.ardencraftshopmuseum.com/donate-objects.html>

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting:

- The town contributed to a gift (mailbox post made by Denis O'Regan) for Jenny. The 3 town chairs presented it to her at her retirement party on Nov. 5th.
- We will vote on updated by-law language at the next meeting, in order to be consistent with residency requirements under state law.
- A motion was made allowing the treasurer to write checks under \$500 with no additional signatures. Unanimously approved.
- Ivy Gables now has 21 residents.
- For future discussion: Once Ardentown website is up, would residents consider a transition to posting minutes electronically instead of mailing?

ELECTIONS:

TOWN OFFICERS: Treasurer- Holly Custer, Town Secretary- Terri Hansen, re-elected unanimously

PLANNING: Andrew Hansen (Chair), Janet Cosgrove, Renata Brito-Cherrin, re-elected unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

WILMAPCO VISITORS :Bill Swiatek and Jacob Thompson

Q & A on paths and paths planning:

Are all Ardens included? No, only Ardentown. Arden and Ardencroft are free to pursue the same effort with WILMAPCO themselves.

Once the paths are established, how will they be maintained? This will be up to the town and incorporated into the plan.

How long do we have your help? As long as it takes, no specific deadline.

Does the land rent get used for paths? Yes, there is a line item on the budget but it is very small. WILMAPCO may be able get us in touch with funding sources. Some sources have strings attached, some do not. WILMAPCO can help us avoid entanglements we might not want to undertake.

Comments from residents:

- This is our chance to keep our paths improved and better used; a wonderful opportunity
- There used to be a path on the North side of the creek that has deteriorated. He would like to see the paths along the creek improved.
- Arden's paths are well maintained because they are significantly funded and made a priority.
- Leaseholders adjacent to the paths are responsible to keep the paths clear; what do we do about leaseholders who have encroached on paths? We need to establish rules and educate.
- Priority one- think about ALL the paths, those in the woods as well as the paths adjacent to houses, but think of roads and connections too.

Residents were asked to complete the Paths Survey, which will remain open until after Thanksgiving.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Hansen