

Sept 2009
minutes

Village of Ardentown

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

**Monday, November 9, 2009
7:30 pm**

AGENDA (partial)

1. Elections: Town Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
1 year term

Community Planning Committee:
3 members, 2 year term

2. Committee Reports

**A quorum is needed at the town meeting.
*Please come and bring your neighbor!***

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The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on **Monday, September 14, 2009**. Alison Byer, Chair, presiding. **A quorum was present.**

Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Alison Byer | 16. Sandy Landerl |
| 2. Joan Fitzgerald | 17. Shari Phalan |
| 3. Bob Miller | 18. Drew Hansen |
| 4. Enno Krebbers | 19. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Betty Ann Themal | 20. Barbara Conway |
| 6. Harry Themal | 21. Maureen Lynch |
| 7. Robert DeNigris | 22. Bob Lockerman |
| 8. Cheryl Regan | 23. Janet Cosgrove |
| 9. Jerome Bischoff | 24. Hans Francke |
| 10. Barbara Mondzelewski | 25. Hetty Francke |
| 11. Rusty Hoegger | 26. Oliver Gutsche |
| 12. Hardy Hoegger | 27. Holly Custer |
| 13. Steve Cohen | 28. Elaine Schmerling |
| 14. Joy Mulholland | |
| 15. Dottie Verne | Intern: Harrison Stigler |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order Alison Byer, Town Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Janet Cosgrove

New Leaseholders: None to report

New Residents: Nicole Bye, 2305A Loreley Lane
Yvonne Lyles, 2303 #2 East Mall

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$21,278.88
Municipal Street Aid:	.00
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>24,594.55</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$45,873.43

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Enno Krebbers

The Audit Committee reviewed the financial records of the Ardentown trustees and of the Village of Ardentown. The trustee records are maintained by Betty Ann Themal and the village records are maintained by Barbara Mondzelewski (treasurer). Both sets of financial records passed the audit with no discrepancies found. All of the income and expenditures for the past 12 months were reviewed along with the accompany bank statements.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger

There is little to report at this time, except this was the first summer we did not need to water!

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Alison Byer for

Beverley Fleming, BWVC Building Manager

The Buzz now has air conditioning in all rooms, plus ceiling fans, and updated electric. Plans are in the works for new exterior paint depending on fund raising efforts. We did very well with the Peddlers, Potions, and Practitioners at the Fair. This fundraiser helped pay for a part of the new improvements. This year we added an organic farm market and gourmet iced coffee.

Rentals have increased extremely well and we have new long term classes in yoga, Art of Living, Acting, and Art. Dance is in the near future. We have recently added concerts and will continue with the Coffee House in October.

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT: Steve Cohen

Harrison Stigler has completed the Village Internship program and was presented with his certificate. Harrison enjoyed the program and learned a lot.

We are still looking for donations for our Paths. Checks should be made payable to the Village of Ardentown and contributions are tax deductible.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Drew Hansen for Pat Lane

Paths/Trees/Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling:

TREE PLANTING: The trees from last years' tree planting mostly enjoyed the rains this year, and look good.

Compost: Hal has turned the piles, consolidated the compost, and gotten the bins ready for fall leaf collections. Please note that we have a full bin of compost ready for use!

Take it from the marked Compost Bin # 4.

Leaves will be accepted from residents in Bins #1 & 6, the first and last ones, which also will be marked. **PLEASE DO NOT FILL #2 or #5.** These are reserved for Hal, in payment for his work turning them and maintaining them. Bin #3 is actively composting and should be ready next year!

Remember, the gate is locked, to prevent dumping problems which we have had in the past. Please bring in **LEAVES ONLY**. You can either put them in tarps and carry over the fence, or put bags/cans over the fence (or walk around), and empty them. Please, do not leave bags, sticks, or any other times that aren't leaves!

Compost Activities performed by Hetty Franke:

Since the beginning of May 2009, a number of groups have been introduced to the 'Ardentown Compost Site'.

May 2nd- Wilmington Garden Day, (WGD), guests learning about back yard composting. A portable gazebo was set up for volunteers to be stationed for half the day to answer compost related questions.

Peter Lindtner, recently retired Head Gardener from Hagley Museum and Gardens and Monica Jones, who took my compost class attended to WGD guests, showed a worm box and explained compost units.

Others, a DNREC staff member Alex Rittberg with two boyscouts and Arden's resident Willard Glenn were promoting composting during the afternoon shift.

Handouts, "Start Composting Today" brochures, updated March '09, were made available by DNREC.

About two hundred WGD visitors passed through, according to WGD committee members. Weather may have interfered a bit.

June 7th- "What to do with Leftovers" program. 24 Members of the First Unitarian Church, youth and parents, were introduced to back yard composting at the Francke home and walked through the Glen to the 'Ardentown Compost Site'.

June 17th- Family crisis therapists and youth, 27 total, were introduced to back yard composting at the Francke home and walked through the Glen to the 'Ardentown Compost Site'. Picnic lunch to follow on Francke patio.

July 27th- Delaware Center for Horticulture, DCH, 14 students, 7th and 8th grade with 2 staff of H.E.L.P. (Horticulture and Environmental Leadership Program) were introduced to back yard composting at the Francke home and walked through the Glen to the 'Ardentown Compost Site'. Picnic lunch to follow at Franckes.

The 'Ardentown Compost Site' is an example for Delaware Institutions. Staff and others visit the 'Site'. At times I am assisting people, but individuals come on their own as well. (Delaware Tech staff, the sustainability committee, is planning a visit in September. Nemours, Museum and Gardens may follow in the near future).

The upkeep of the 'Ardentown Compost Site' resulted in approximately 20 hours of work since the May 2nd WGD event. Hours of weeding, pulling weeds, using weed whacker and cutting weeds with land-mower made the area look somewhat presentable. Poison Ivy was treated and some landscaping to be done. Hal Goodwin delivering wood chips for mulching. The 6 bins with leaf mulch need attention. People continue to dump yard waste, trimmings, etc.

Paths: Hal has cleaned the path between Brae and The Glen several times along with cleaning up fallen trees. Other paths that have been cleaned include Miller Rd through Eden Rock, The Candlelight to The Glen, Brae, The Mall and the circle near the Cohen's. We have spent our budgeted money and \$120 of the donations; we have \$110 left of the donations to use on one more small section.

Roads – Drew Hansen: Work was completed on The Mall at the east end. This work exhausted the remaining Municipal Street Aid funds and, as we learned concurrently, there are no such funds for 2010.

The PW Committee will explore other options for funding any needed road repairs in 2010, including legislative discretionary funds. (We can discuss other possibilities during tonight's meeting.) We are looking into the cost of asphalt patch available at Lowe's and having Hal Goodwin perform the repairs. There is a pothole forming on Loreley near Harvey that will soon require attention.

Signs – Cheryl Regan: I have 32 signs ready to be installed. I am trying to get the square tipped bit to remove the deck style screws that were used to install the signs. If not, I will try a crowbar. I have purchased lag bolts and washers which will make it much easier to maintain the signs when it comes to removal, painting and reinstalling.

Depending on the remaining funds, I will purchase more signs for replacement and refurbish the old signs for future use. So I am going to order 20 signs, the cost last time was about \$20 a sign. The missing slow children playing sign was \$25 the last time I ordered them. That would come to \$425 without the shipping cost. If we need to scale back some, let me know. I am trying to do this by the worst to best signs needing replacement first. I have not gotten up with Hetty yet on the replacement sign for the compost site, I don't know what the cost of that will be.

I will be meeting with Hetty Franke to look at a new idea for the composting site sign.

Snow/Sand – David Byer: Nothing to report.

Sunnyside Tract – Barbara Conway

1. On July 29, 2009, Elaine Schmerling, Barbara Conway, and Eileen Butler of DNREC and her 9 month old son, toured the Sunnyside Tract Nature Preserve (South Branch Naaman's Creek Nature Preserve) as fulfillment of DNREC's annual monitoring requirement. The tract was found to be in good condition with these exceptions:
 - a. A syringe was found on the ground on the path near the Radnor Green side of the tract.
 - b. Evidence of recent campfire activity was found in the area of the former camp.
 - c. A large tree covered in oriental bittersweet was down and blocking the path near the entrance to the tract when entering from the access point near the Cropper's home.
 - d. The "Nature Preserve" signs that we previously hung, are all missing.

Action Items:

- a. Eileen Butler of DNREC will send us four new "Nature Preserve" signs.
 - b. Barbara Conway will cut an opening through the downed tree so the path is no longer blocked.
 - c. Eileen Butler asked two colleagues with knowledge about invasives to guide us in how best to dispose of the oriental bittersweet, and how to prioritize which invasives to remove first. We never heard back from Eileen or her colleagues and have not yet received the signs. I recently sent an e-mail reminder.
2. Acquiring Americorp Help to Remove Invasives
 - a. Our request for an account with the Delaware State Office of Volunteerism has been approved. We can use the account to post volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers, screen volunteers by geographical location, interests, etc., and run reports on the impact our organization has on our community.

- b. I sent a summary of our program to the Tess Belcher, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation State Parks Program, which is part of the State Commission Americorps Program. Tess has a new grant beginning in October which will fund hours for 14 people. She feels that after October, she may be able to provide us with about 4 volunteers for winter hours removing invasives from Sunnyside. Her program actually provides training to their volunteers on identifying invasives, though they will not be having another training session until next spring.
- c. I have also been in contact with Andy Kloepfer, Senior Administrator for the Delaware State Office of Volunteerism. He has provided me with some other avenues to pursue to acquire money and volunteers.
- d. I am also going to contact the Radnor Green Civic Association to see if we may be able to recruit some help from them. I would ask to come to one of their meetings and give a short presentation about Sunnyside and our plans for the area. It would be nice if we could get them to enjoy this area as a Nature Preserve, too.

Town Watch - Holly Custer On August 19, when stopping by to inspect the 'Ardentown Compost Site', Hetty Franke noticed a bright red pocket book at the end of the wooden fence across from the Johnston's. Coming closer she saw a black pocket book in addition. The inside of both was scattered. Hetty noticed plastified cards, etc. and called the police after returning home. The next day, Hetty met County Police in the parking lot. The police took some of the materials and knew where to go to deliver and investigate.

The problem of unauthorized parking is better and we thank those who are complying. However, it is still occurring on the various Greens and streets. As previously stated, Ardentown Ordinance 91-1, dated February 9, 2004 in accordance with Delaware House Bill No. 172 passed July 25, 2003 states:

Section 1, "There shall be no parking on the roads or greens of Ardentown."

Section 2, "Every leaseholder in Ardentown shall provide space on the leasehold and off the roads or greens of Ardentown to accommodate every vehicle regularly using the leasehold."

Section 5, "Violation of Section 1 shall be punishable by a fine of \$10 for each offense."

Section 6, "Violation of Section 2 shall be punishable by a fine of \$100 for each complaint."

In the interest of public safety, would it be possible to remove the bushes from the corner of the garage on Millers Road at Eden Rock? They are in the middle of the curve and poses a problem to people and vehicles being able to be seen when coming from the opposite direction.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Elaine Schmerling
Nothing to report

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Bob DeNigris

Due to the increase of property taxes and increase cost from Waste Management, our land rent next year will be considerably higher.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Byer

There is Stimulus money available and proposals are to be submitted by November, I am waiting to receive additional information.

The Delaware League of Local Government: The yearly membership is \$500 and we did not allocate these dues in our 2009 Budget, primarily because of the discontinuance of the Municipal Street Aid fund and no advance notice. The next annual meeting is Sunday, September 20th. Alison proposed we pay \$200 towards the dues and if successful we will pay an additional \$100 per each \$1,000 we received towards the Municipal Street Aid up to \$300.

The motion was passed (16-6) Alison could present our offer at the next annual meeting.

ELECTIONS :

Registration Committee: Elected for a 1 year term

Alison Byer

Budget Committee: Elected for a 2 year term

Betty Ann Themal, Barbara Mondzelewski, and Hans Francke

Elections for November: Town Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
Community Planning (3)

OLD BUSINESS:

As a follow up to Harry Themal's suggestion at the last Town meeting to support the Claymont Fire Department's annual drive, Enno Krebbers did some research.

He wrote to Bryon Short and Cathy Cloutier. He also met with Tom DiCristofaro, President of the Claymont Fire Department at the end of July.

After Enno's presentation, he concluded there is nothing wrong with donating money if that is what you want to do.

Steve Cohen suggested Enno write an article of his findings for the Arden Page.

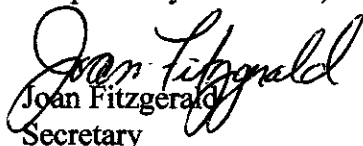
NEW BUSINESS:

Cheryl Regan reported that people have been missing their copy of The News Journal. It appears someone is taking the paper from different houses and our Carrier is aware of this.

Harrison Stigler has published a book and a copy is in the Arden Library.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary

