

Sept 2010
minutes

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING
The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

Monday, November 8, 2010
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

*******UNITED WATER CONTACT INFORMATION*******

It has been reported several homes have recently had a water main break. We understand it may be related to mistakes United Water made with higher than allowable pressures going through the big mains. The person to contact at United Water is Kevin Doyle 302.252.3018

The United Water Claim Specialist is listed below. One of our residents was instructed to send all bills already paid - plumbing, and all estimates of other related damage needing to be addressed (asphalt repair, landscaping, etc) .

Ms. Debbie Hummel
Claims Specialist
United Water
200 Old Hook Road
Harrington, Park, NY 07640

Tel. 201-750-3408

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 7:30 pm on **Monday, September 13, 2010**. Alison Byer, Chair was presiding. **No quorum.**

Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Alison Byer | 16. Holly Custer |
| 2. Joan Fitzgerald | 17. Janet Cosgrove |
| 3. Bob Miller | 18. Sandy Landerl |
| 4. Pat Lane | 19. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Betty Ann Thernal | 20. Elaine Schmerling |
| 6. Harry Thernal | 21. Allan Kleban |
| 7. Robert DeNigris | 22. Joy Mulholland |
| 8. Cheryl Regan | New Residents: Rhys McClure |
| 9. Bob Lockerman | Shelly Robyn |
| 10. Barbara Mondzelewski | June Kleban |
| 11. Enno Krebbers | Guests: Ray Seigfried, Arden |
| 12. Jerome Bischoff | Judy Travis |
| 13. Joan Phibbs | Tom Schrandt |
| 14. Hans Francke | Byron Short |
| 15. Dottie Verne | |

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

GUESTS: Alison introduced our guests

Candidates - 7th District State Representative

Judy Travis, Republican Byron Short, Democrat

Each candidate gave a brief presentation and received a warm welcome

Ray Seigfried, Arden

Introduced a motion to seek exception to the NCC ordinance code against instant ticketing on the parking of vehicle code (hard surfaces only to include grass) and outside storage of debris (to allow tree branches). **Motion approved.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting - approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Janet Cosgrove

New Leaseholders:

1519 Woodland Rd: Terry Harvey and Caroline Farr
(Not residents at this time)

New Residents:

1515 Appletree Ln: Patty Trush
1602 Appletree Ln: June Kleban

1505 Harvey Rd: Evelyn Lemmons and Mike Edson (apt 1)
2301 Sconset Rd: Heather Moran
2303 Sconset Rd: Amber Klements
2313 East Mall: Tom Parisi
2303 East Mall: Rhys McClure (apt 3),
Sarah Rutiglio and Janet Ventimiglia (apt 2),
Brooke Delarco (apt 1)
1605 Orchard Rd: Daryl Wilkinson
2316 Orchard Rd: Diana Hornung-Momet
1516 Woodland Rd: Shelley Robyn

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$32,885.39
Municipal Street Aid:	.00
Arden Building & Loan:	<u>25,307.46</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$58,217.85

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 Thernal 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: Betty Ann Thernal for Rusty Hoegger
Nothing to report at this time.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Beverley Fleming
No report.

COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT: Steve Cohen
No report.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY REPORT: Pat Lane

Paths/Trees/Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling:

1) Final Report for 2006 and 2008 Tree Planting Grants

Elaine was required to send a final report to DNREC for the '06 and '08 tree planting grants. Here is a summary on the status of the 70 trees and shrubs we got funding for in 2006 and 84 more in 2008

The vast majority of the trees planted have survived. From 2006, 58 trees and shrubs, or 83%, are still alive. Many of these are behind the compost unit, and at base of playground. The casualties from this planting were mostly the Mall dogwoods, and three small inkberry shrubs. The dogwoods planted that year were very small restoration-sized trees, and after a very cold, dry winter, nine (9 out of 20) emerged from the winter dead. The three small ink-berries which didn't survive were planted in full shade, and on the far side of the composting unit, where we now realize is very dry. The large (and two small) inkberries which were planted on the right side of the composting unit get sun and

moisture and are thriving. In fact, all other trees planted are thriving. The white pine, large American Hollies and arborvitae are well over 8 or even 10' high, and now are providing a screen for neighbors from the composting facility, while also providing habitat and food for wildlife and helping to absorb rain runoff into the area. The serviceberries and viburnum dentatum are filling in the area behind them, providing some under story trees and shrubs which were lacking before. The remaining dogwoods alive are thriving and also growing.

The 2008 street tree plantings were even more successful: of the 84 planted, a full 79, or 94%, are still alive. The redbuds, crape myrtles and sweetbay magnolia are doing the best and are very hardy. These larger dogwoods purchased from Forest View Nursery fared better than the '06 plantings; we think they are hardier at this size. Most of the winterberry hollies are doing very well, except for one corner where a lot of the snow (and we presume salt and sand) were piled up very high this winter** but what I didn't say in the report is that they have terrible damage from the lawnmowers & weed whackers. One winterberry appears dead, and another one with a dead top, has new leaf growth at the bottom so we are hoping it will come back. The 15 other winterberry hollies are doing very well. Most of the serviceberries look fine and produced a bumper crop of serviceberries for the birds and one child who picked several quarts from them this year....however those in the far end of the Henry George Green are in full sun and have fewer leaves on some branches (and damage at base of trunk). They appear to be happiest in partial shade, and in that shady spot where it is also moister (possibly also farther away from the walnut trees?). The black gums are basically fine: one looks great (but is slow-growing), and the other didn't look happy from the beginning. The crown died off but leaves are sprouting from the sides (any suggestions?) The Carolina silverbells are the least happy of all - and lots of weed whacker damage. One died the very first spring, and the rest are hanging in but they also have many bare branches and I'm not sure what to do about them. Elaine has been working on mulching these the most, to protect them from the lawnmowers and weed-whackers.

HELP IS NEEDED PROTECTING THE DOGWOODS ON THE MALL & EAST MALL...Elaine mostly had time to pull weeds and stack up sticks around the ones closest to me - first segment of the Mall near Candlelight, and corner of winterberries closest to me - have helpers for the Petit Green - need other helpers. Sconset Triangle is the probably the worst; one probably dead now.

There was not time to properly survey all the donated trees and shrubs we used for part of the match since many of them were in the woods spread throughout...however, two of the donated seedling-redbuds, and two Virginia sweetspires, are thriving at the playground, and look like they were planted large! One seedling redbud died from '06 planting, but was planted with a large-purchased 'Forest Pansy' redbud used for match in '08; this tree too is thriving. The redbuds and crape myrtles especially had a great flowering year.

2) New Tree '10 Grant -

Elaine applied for and got funding for what we hope is the remaining grant to fill out our Ardentown street tree planting: 5 more dogwoods each in The Mall 2 and East Mall; 2 yellowwoods off Sconset Lane to beautify the entrance and fill in the empty spaces there; and 9 more trees and shrubs to fill out the Petit Green (4 sugar maples, 1 more each: black gum, crape myrtle and dogwood). On the Petit Green, we are filling in canopy trees

where trees have recently died, and planting them further back (instead of right next to the street as they were in the past), and anticipating the death of at least one other large silver maples.

Elaine has small seedling redbuds for match and could use any other babies any of you may have of these and dogwoods...will also try planting the bases with violets, which I have many of, to try an alternative to mulching (donations and help in planting them welcome...)

Compost: Hal has turned the compost pile. Residents can take compost from bin #5 and leaves are to be dumped in bins 2 and 4 counting from the end near the gate.

Paths: Hal cleared the path at Brae Rd, placed chips in the Glenn, worked on the path parallel to The Mall and weeded the path at Lorelei

Roads – Drew Hansen: The concrete swale at the bottom of Woodland Road is crumbling around the grate, causing it to tilt. A warning cone has been placed at the location by our paving contractor, Downing.

Our state representative Bryon Short and state senator Catherine Cloutier each committed \$7,000 to support capital improvements to neighborhood roads. We are waiting for final confirmation from Sen. Cloutier's office before funds can be released to DelDot and made available to address the problem on Woodland Road, as well as paving work on Lorelei between Harvey and Millers Road

Signs – Cheryl Regan: We have 30 signs to be painted and have the reflective grit applied. Eight of these are already completed. The game plan is to have the rest completed and installed prior to the winter. The one way/arrow metal sign by Millers and The Mall (leaning on the wooden road sign post) will be removed from the rusted metal post and attached to the current wooden road sign.

Snow/Sand: We are not requesting sand barrels this year they do not appear to get used.

Sunnyside Tract - Barbara Conway: Recently, a Radnor Green resident noticed campfires in the Sunnyside Tract. Upon further investigation, he observed an active camp in the tract. He called the police and accompanied the police officer to the camp. There, they encountered a couple who lived at the camp. The couple said that they had received permission from Ardentown to camp/live in the Sunnyside Tract. It was also observed that the couple had a large amount of wood collected and stacked in the camp, as though they intended to be there a long time. The Radnor Green resident contacted a resident of Ardentown to see if the couple had permission to live in the Sunnyside Tract. This resident of Ardentown contacted me to see if I, or if I knew of anyone who, had given permission to this couple to camp/live in the Sunnyside Tract. My answer was "no". This Ardentown resident also reported smelling smoke at various times coming from the direction of the Sunnyside Tract.

On Sunday, September 5, 2010, Holly Custer and I donned our rock hopping and poison ivy protective gear and headed for an investigative walk through the Sunnyside Tract. We entered through the southeast side at Radnor Green Park. As we walked in a northerly direction, we saw a large stack of fallen branches neatly piled across a dry creek bed so that it was mostly off of the ground. It looked like a stack of firewood. As we got closer to the northernmost edge of the tract, we started to see small amounts of trash. We then encountered an abandoned camp. There were several areas used for former campfires, areas that looked like they had been flattened down like a tarp or tent had been there, and a weird configuration of large holes dug into the ground, perhaps it was a water collection system? There were also several trees that had been sawed down with a hand saw. Many were Norway Maples (YAY!). The largest tree sawed down in the camp

appeared to be a Tulip Poplar, and it definitely would have required the Trustees permission to be taken down had the campers known of our tree removal policy. There was a small amount of trash around, but nothing like the mess the previous camper had left a little over a year ago.

We scanned the tract with our binoculars and saw no signs of an active camp. When the leaves fall from the trees, we will return for another look. If anyone has reason to believe that fires are present in the Sunnyside Tract, please let me know. It is unbelievably dry back there and a fire could easily get out of control.

The dry weather has had the beneficial effect of stunting or killing many of the invasives that covered the tract this spring. At that time, it was almost impossible to move without encountering thick tangles of poison ivy. We also saw many deer tracks near the small amount of creek that hasn't dried up and Holly saw a beautiful Red Fox!

Town Watch - Holly Custer: The New Candlelight Theater was broken into on July 28th. The office window was broken and 4 bottles of alcohol were taken, the cash box was not touched. A blood trail was left by the thieves leading to 1515 Harvey Road. Max DiGiacoma was arrested for the break in and is currently out on bail. His accomplice has not been identified.

Playground - Elaine Schmerling: Nothing to report.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Bob DeNigris

After 22 years of servicing as an Ardentown Trustee, Bob DeNigris announced he will be resigning. Harry Themal and Barbara Mondzelewski will be accepting suggestions for Bob's replacement.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Alison Byer

Energy Efficient Grant: We have been granted \$20,000 to be used to insulate the Candlelight.

ELECTIONS:

Registration Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Janet Cosgrove and Maureen Gordon

Budget Committee: Elected for a 2 year term
Enno Krebbers


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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: We should discuss at November's meeting if we want to change the length of term for our town positions - Town Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Fitzgerald
Secretary

Joan Fitzgerald
Ardentown Secretary
2305 Loreley Lane
Ardentown, DE 19810