

# 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, September 8, 2014. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

## IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Steven R. Cohen
2. Joan Fitzgerald
3. R
4. Rusty Hoegger
5. Anne P. Lutz
6. Joy Mulholland
7. Dotty Verne
8. Bob Lockerman
9. Drew Hansen
10. Terri Hansen
11. Cheryl Regan
12. Page Dwyer
13. Alison Wakelin
14. Pat Lane
15. Enno Krebbers
16. Tara Kelly
17. Mike Fish
18. Harry Thernal
19. Betty Ann Thernal
20. Gil Johnston
21. Holly Custer
22. Jennifer Coe
23. Ann Balogh
24. Susan Mearkle
25. Sandra Landerl
26. Sue Cherrin
27. Shelley Robyn
28. Carly Hampton
29. Adrian Hill
30. Steven Curley
31. Bill Theis- guest
32. George Loudon- guest
33. Geoff Henry- guest

**MEETING:** Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Enno Krebbers, Town Chair. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the May meeting approved with no changes

**REGISTRATION-** Betty Ann Thernal reporting- no changes to report at this time

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Barbara Mondzelewski reporting

Operating Accounts:	\$42,981.65
Municipal Street Aid	\$ 600.87
<u>Arden Building and Loan</u>	<u>\$22,134.88</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$62,717.40</b>

**MEMORIAL GARDEN-** Rusty Hoegger, reporting. Hal Godwin and crew will be doing a big job repairing the Garden's East gate and also replacing some of the upright posts etc. some of which are the originals going back 24 years when we opened in 1990. Repair work should be complete by the November meeting and there is every reason to believe the repairs will last another 24 years!

**PLANNING COMMITTEE-** nothing to report

**PUBLIC WORKS –** Cheryl Reagan reporting

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs: Numerous areas needing attention were identified and a prioritized list was made. Repairs were completed in a timely manner. A question was made as to why a certain area had been repaired. Road repairs include more than just filling the obvious potholes. Certain areas showing horizontal cracks were repaired instead of waiting for the road to begin to fall apart. This is a more proficient use of funds having a fixed cost done at this time instead of waiting.

A concern had previously been made about individuals not stopping, some not even slowing at the intersection of Millers Rd, and Loreley Lane. Bruce Downing has been contacted to look into the possibility of installing speed bumps.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan: 17 signs were ordered last month. When they are stained and painted, they will hopefully be installed soon. A No-Thru Traffic sign was installed on the sign post for Brae Rd and Valley Rd.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano: The sand barrels were all picked up, and nothing further to report.

Street Trees: Elaine Schmerling: Elaine S. is getting 3 quotes this week (required by grants) for requesting another Tree Management grant to: 1) Take out the remaining dead/dying elms at the bottom of Brae Rd (priority), 2) Take out 2 dead trees in Southeast corner of Petit Green, and 3) limb-up/prune 8 trees on other side of Petit Green (on Lorely and Orchard).

Elaine S. will try to propose a match as we did last year, for storm-damage trees and limbs, and pruning street trees. I am not sure we will get this a 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, and for what looks like will be close to or at the maximum \$5,000, but it is worth a try!

Since we can only apply for ONE tree grant a year, and we have so many dead trees that are a hazard, Elaine S. will not be applying for a tree-planting grant this year.

Compost Area: Elaine Schmerling: Always looks best after its once/month mowing. Hal did haul away the short-dumped brush. Elaine S. has been trying to tarp the weeds over the compost area, it's hard to keep up with. Hal is working with Ron to turn the piles. To take care of wet area:

Glen Path/Bridge Work: Elaine Schmerling: Bob Bartoo, DNREC Trails Specialist, has been working with us following the Planning Committee's recommendations, to determine scope and direction of our top pathwork priorities. He and another are guiding us through applying for pathwork funding for (due later in the fall then the tree grant). They have asked us to get 3 quotes for the following work (need to identify 2 more bidders):

FALL PATHWORK GRANT REQUEST:

PATH BY COMPOST AREA Path approximately 40" wide by 45' Length, where it is but make it walkable and dry by excavating at least a foot down, and replacing with large stones R-4 (about the size of footballs), so that water drains under it; then cover top with smaller-sized stone for walking ("a little" – 2-4"?).

(Other things for this area: Hal Godwin wants to put a drain pipe in middle of the front of compost area, secure with rocks, carry excess water to creek. MATCH if trustees will pay for? Also, have donated cattails to plant to left of trail, where the compost demonstration area has been, could take care of that spot instead of mowing it (wet).

BRIDGE by Joan/Hugh's house– Bob has sent me specs for rebuilding & replacing current unsafe one, and DNREC can deliver excess lumber to us, valued at \$2,500! (to use as a match). Bid will be to build, and to dismantle, haul away and properly dispose of all old lumber (some is creosote).

MATCH – DNREC is giving lumber, and Elaine S. will propose a "Path Party" (suggested by Beth!) to clear out the lower path under the power line. Also mowing of the area, clearing/planting plants there, and some trustees or donation matches. (Drain pipe as Hal suggests?)

**PLAYGROUND** – Swings are repaired and in place. There have been some older teens/young adults observed on the playground. They appear to be parking at Ivy Gables and going over to the playground to hang out and there is evidence that they have been doing drugs at times. Police have been called when this has been observed and the hope is that as Ivy Gables begins to take on residents the parking lot will be less available for this as well.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Harry Thernal reporting- Ivy Gables is awaiting final permitting and is hoping to have its first residents by the end of October. An Open House will be held for the residents of Ardentown sometime in October.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:**

Road Work- Why were some job prioritized over others and why was some work done when there appeared to be no damage? Jobs are prioritized according to severity of damage and jobs are done when budget allows. If you have a road repair that you feel needs to be prioritized, please reach out to the chair of the Public Works Committee.

**BWVC:** Programs are going well and are well attended, rentals are picking up

**ELECTIONS:**

Registration Committee- Maureen Gordon and Alison Wakelin reelected unanimously

Budget Committee- Holly Custer (Chair) and Annie Gutsche reelected unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Respectfully submitted

Terri Hansen  
Ardentown Secretary