

# Village of Ardentown Established 1922 Ardentown, Del. 19810 Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30pm on Monday, September 12, 2016. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

## ***In Attendance:***

- |                         |                             |                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Drew Hansen          | 11. Bob Lockerman           | 20. Hans Francke          |
| 2. Harry Thernal        | 12. Pat Lane                | 21. Sara Stevenson        |
| 3. Betty Ann Thernal    | 13. Janet Cosgrove          | 22. Elaine Schmerling     |
| 4. Barbara Mondzelewski | 14. Suzanne Winkler Maguire | 23. Katrina Nelson        |
| 5. Anne P. Lutz         | 15. Annie Gutsche           | 24. Joanna Maureen Gordon |
| 6. Joan Fitzgerald      | 16. Pat Phillips            | 25. Joanna Scheflen       |
| 7. Hardy Hoegger        | 17. Kitty Mayo              | 26. Judy Glen             |
| 8. Rusty Hoegger        | 18. Terri Hansen            | 27. Sue Cherrin           |
| 9. Steve Cohen          | 19. Steven Curley           | 28. Alison Wakelin        |
| 10. Cheryl Regan        |                             | 29. Sharon Kleban         |
|                         |                             | 30. Peter Slattery        |

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

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

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Betty Ann Thernal reporting:

Lot 57- 309 Loreley Lane: From David Burslem and Theresa Trunono to Zack and Sara Stevenson

1505 Harvey Road- Kitty Mayo

2307 East Mall- Judy Glenn

1508 The Mall- Adam Caplan and Nadine Sabater

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts: \$ 48,243.25

Municipal Street Aid: \$ 11,293.78

Arden Building and Loan: \$ 23,029.13

***Total Funds Available: \$ 82,566.16***

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

### **Paths**

Two members of the the Planning Committee and two representatives from WILMAPCO held an initial conversation to discuss how WILMAPCO may be able to assist Ardentown with the development of a detailed plan for preserving, protecting, and enhancing the paths in Ardentown, including the woods and Sunnyside Tract. A map of the paths was reviewed, and an initial framework for collaboration was discussed. Following that meeting, a second meeting was scheduled to further clarify the collaboration process, with attendees to include additional members of the Planning Committee, Public Works, as well as Hardy Hoegger and Chris Munson.

### **Website**

The Planning Committee met to outline the content structure of the community website, based on input from the survey.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** Betty Ann Thernal reporting:

- The fence on the Harvey Road side of the Memorial Garden has had one post and rail replaced.
- Long time resident and former Ardentown Trustee Doris Boller died on August 27. Her ashes will be interred with her friend, Sally Decker who died in 2007.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Cheryl Regan Joan Warburton-PhibbsSue Mearkle; Elaine Schmerling; Chris Monson; Paul Romagano; Allan Kleban

**ROADS:** Cheryl Regan

We have received an estimate to pave in front of the Candlelight Theater and will set up a convenient time with the theater to do the paving. We also have an estimate to pave Sconset from The Mall (lower end) up to within a few feet of The Mall (upper end). The work on Sconset should begin in about two weeks; notification will be sent out prior to any work starting. During a walk through town, a few leaseholds were noted for having overgrown vegetation that is creating blind spots. There are also leaseholds that have vegetation growing into the roadway that should be pruned back even though it does not create a visibility issue. These areas interfere with the normal flow of traffic when two vehicles pass, as well as snow plowing.

**SIGNS:** Cheryl Regan

The 18 signs that were made through DCI have been installed. One post was also replaced at Valley and Sconset. We have three "20 mph" signs that will be placed on the wooden poles at Sconset/Harvey; Swiss/Harvey; and Loreley/Harvey. There has been a request to remove one of the newly installed stop signs at Via Italia and Swiss. The placement of these signs was agreed upon at the last town meeting.

**SNOW/SAND:** Paul Romagano: Nothing to report.

**TRESS/PUBLIC AREAS:** Elaine Schmerling

**Pettit Green:** Thanks to Allan Kleban for pruning! The third Dawn Redwood planted has died (too hot and dry, even with watering). When it is cooler a baby hackberry will be transplanted by the corner. Terry Harvey would like to plant a native tree on the Green near his house, and take out the European Cherry which seeded into one of our prior plantings.

**Compost Area:** THANKS TO CHRIS MONSON FOR MOWING A PATH! We are working on making the first 2 bins ready for fall leaves this November. Wet meadow is coming along between the fence and the first half of the prior mowed area. We could use more helpers. There is some swamp milkweed flowering, and we have other plants started for flowering in spring, summer and fall. Two Goldenrods are out now: Canada by the parking lot, and swamp Goldenrod in the meadow. Interested in turning this area, with back right parking area, into a Monarch waystation. Would like permission to put common milkweed in parking lot between fence and curbstops (currently weeds). **Sunnyside:** Chris left note on another tent – the people did take it out. The annual walk-through with Eileen Butler of DNREC showed no ATV or paintball activity, which is very positive. She wrote "The Village has done an exemplary job at removing invasive species, trail maintenance and compassionate removal of vagrant/trespassers". She is working on a trail map of the area with a suggested loop in order to reduce ATV use.

**Misc:** Bulletin board pictures have been taken and sent to DCI.

Residents commented on a few areas in town: The Brae Road road sign is blocked by a tree, and to create visibility, some posts have yellow strips to indicate that there is a road coming up. It would be helpful to install reflective material to make the signs more noticeable.

**PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE:** Steven Curley reporting: Nothing to report.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Harry Thernal reporting:

- County taxes are unchanged, school taxes are up 12%. The Waste Management contract has been renewed.
- The Murray Leasehold has been sold to real estate developer; situation is being watched.
- More work is being done at the Candlelight to address drainage issues.

Judy Glenn reports that there are town trees on 2307 East Mall that have significant dead limbs and damage. Pat Lane will follow up.

**BUZZ COMMITTEE:** Terri Hansen - Exterior work on the building is now complete. Rentals and community events are

vigorous and the expectation is that the budget will end the fiscal year at or near revenue neutral.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:** Hans Francke reporting:

- The committee is working on a new exposition featuring all Gilds present and past. In October there will be an annual fundraising effort.
- Betty Ann Themal added that Archives has created a new walking tour map of the three Villages; the Trustees will buy copies for our registration packets.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Annie Gutsche reporting:

- Municipal Street Aid in the amount of \$10,000 has been received.
- A new state law changes the resident requirement to 30 days, to keep the state in compliance with Federal standards. We do not have to anything to change our charter since the language of the new law negated our charter language, but we may need to change our by-laws.
- Traffic safety, be aware of new patterns and respect speed limits. There have been a couple of serious accidents within the Village related to speed and failure to stop. Please be careful! Also, a reminder that residents are responsible for trimming leasehold vegetation that obstructs traffic signs, and/or visibility to oncoming traffic.
- Please continue to drain all sources of standing water to keep the mosquitoes at a minimum. ● Our mail carrier Jenny is retiring, we will formally thank her at the November meeting.

**ELECTIONS:**

**Registration:** Maureen Gordon and Alison Wakelin reelected unanimously.

**Budget:** Steven Curley and Hugh Phibbs reelected unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Hardy Hoegger- He has walked the path for many years and now that he needs to use a cane he finds that Ardentown has the poorest maintained paths. Public works committee members asked to follow up as there is still money available in the budget for paths. Steven Cohen reminds us that residents can make a tax deductible donation to the Village and designate it for path use.

Pat Lane informs us that the power company is coming through to clear the lines.

Steven Curley- Representing the Arden Pool. The Pool Board is exploring the idea of making the Arden Pool a true community pool by having the Villages support the pool through a "tax" or land rent payment. The Board thinks \$125 - 150 per leasehold and charges would be by leasehold and not residents. Straw poll results- seems even between yeahs and nays with most people interested in hearing more.

Hans Francke- Would like to formally change the name of Loreley Road to Loreley Lane. Unfortunately we can't change the name officially, but going forward road signs for Loreley will be "Lane".

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen