

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:35 pm on Monday, September 11, 2017. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Andrew Hansen | 11. Anne P. Lutz | 21. Hardy Hoegger |
| 2. Terri Hansen | 12. Judy Glenn | 22. Sue Cherrin |
| 3. Harry Themal | 13. Janet Cosgrove | 23. Peter Slattery |
| 4. Betty Ann Themal | 14. Christiana Dobreznski | 24. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Joan Fitzgerald | 15. Cathleen Malone | 25. Shelley Robyn |
| 6. Barbara Mondzelewski | 16. Katrina Nelson | 26. Stuart Craig |
| 7. Pat Lane | 17. Holly Custer | 27. Mhairi Craig |
| 8. June Kleban | 18. Chris Monson | 28. Terri Harvey |
| 9. Dotty Verne | 19. Bev Bizup Hawkins | 29. Elaine Schmerling |
| 10. Annie Gutsche | 20. Lindsey Sherwood | 30. Alison Wakelin |

GUEST: Representatives from the Wilmington HOPE Commission addressed the Meeting about the mission of the Commission. This group works to assist ex-offenders in their reintegration back into society following their release from prison. The group assists with housing, clothing, employment and other things necessary to make the transition back to community life. They focus on the city of Wilmington but are always looking for opportunities for outreach to and networking with other communities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 2017 meeting were approved as written. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Terri Hansen reporting for Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$ 55,144.37
Municipal Street Aid:	\$ 10,077.56
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$ 23,488.45</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$ 88,710.38

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting: Nothing to report.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reporting: The Memorial Garden Committee will be arranging for new plantings in the area of Harvey Road and in the southwest corner of the area this Fall. The Committee is enlisting the assistance of Elaine Schmerling in choosing the plants and planting them. Replacing the entire fence is far more than the budget allows. The Committee will consider renewing sections instead.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Andrew Hansen reporting:

PATH: Jake from WILMPACO addressed the meeting. There is an updated paths plan available, and a final plan should be available for the November meeting. Residents are encouraged to provide comments and feedback. The WILMPACO path plan was handed out.

PUBLIC WORKS: Annie Lutz reporting for Cheryl Regan

Roads: Speed bumps will be painted this month. The turn-around near the end of Brae road has had vehicles parking in it. This has been addressed with the individual parking there, and hopefully no other complaints on this. There is still a significant amount of people not stopping at Swiss and Via Italia and moving fast. It appears that some of traffic not stopping is local. Removable speed bumps have been suggested, and research is being done on

pricing. A large weedy bush/tree was removed at the corner of Millers and Harvey due to a visibility problem.

Signs: Due to a generous donation from June Kleban, the remainder of the wooden road signs have been ordered. The previous order is close to completion.

Snow/sand: Nothing to report.

Misc: The new bulletin board has been installed. No lead paint is present on any of the playground equipment, benches or soil. To report ivy/vines around a transformer, log into DP&L Forestry and go to tree and management request

and fill out the form. The transformer at Millers and Loreley was encased in vines, and they came out within two weeks and took care of it.

Additional: Saint Edmonds Academy will be having their Inaugural Lancer Dash 5K on September 23rd. They will come up Veale and do down Millers to The Mall, and continue East and then West on The Mall and down Millers to Arden.

They would love to have people cheer them on. They will leave the school at 9am.

Paths: The 4 x 4's on the path behind the Cohen's will be replaced as the wood is rotted and the rebar is sticking up with a potential hazard of impalement. The path will also be cleared of overgrowth.

Town Plantings: I propose October fall planting of "Various planting including more street dogwoods, and shrubs along Candlelight side, compost area, and possibly the Henry George green using donations in our budget. See me if you want to get involved with this."

Henry George Green: Chris has been working tirelessly to continue to remove poison ivy and other vines from this area. Still work to do, but it's looking much better!

Sunnyside: Chris is clearing up another tent area and he continues to work tirelessly on the paths! We will work with Hal

this fall to carry out the lumber, and to continue to saw ivy and other vines off trees (waiting for poison ivy to go dormant), and plan for 1-2 days with Redtail restoration from the Creekside up. See me if you want to help with the fall tree-saving. Weekdays are better for me.

Compost area: Hal repaired the gate to the composting site. He also cleaned it up today along the walkway. We hope to announce it is ready for fall leaf collections for next meeting.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Steven Curley reporting: Nothing to report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal reporting: Nothing to report.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: ACRA has begun to create the mural for installation on the rear of the building. The final design is meant to evoke the children of the Ardens taking wing from the firm foundation of growing up in the Ardens. Artwork is done by Linda Celestian and will incorporate artwork done by the children of ACRA this Summer.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting: Potential change to residency 30 days vs 6 months. We are still struggling to get an answer about whether we are required to alter our by laws to match state law. Arden is also asking, so hopefully with two village officers asking, we will get an answer.

Our trash contract with Waste Management is up next year. Therefore, if there are any complaints or concerns, please send them to Annie Gutsche or Terri Hansen.

Website- Now that it is possible to post minutes to a website, please begin to consider how we might change the current processes of sending minutes via mail. For example, Arden uses an opt-in model, so anyone who requests the minutes be sent to them gets them mailed. Drew Hansen points out that the website has been live five days and he would like a couple of meeting cycles and a meeting with the people who are currently handling the processes to develop a new way of doing things.

Annie's term as Town Chair ends in November, 2018, so we need to find someone to take over. The position is interesting and enjoyable (personally speaking), and less time intensive than one might think. It does require some willingness/patience to deal with paperwork and bureaucracy. Please contact Annie if you would like to know more about the position and to suggest qualified candidates.

ELECTIONS:

Budget- Hans Francke, Cindy Cohen, and Renata Brito-Cherrin elected unanimously

Registration- Betty Ann Themal elected unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Drew Hansen presented a live demo of the new town website (ardentown.delaware.gov). Many thanks to the volunteers who helped suggest and proofread information, and to the Delaware Government Information Center for helping to design and host this site.

Resident who lives across the street from Ivy Gables asked about potential construction. Harry Themal informed the meeting that Ivy Gables is moving forward with plans to expand to create an Alzheimer's wing. The Trustees thought that any plans the County approves the Trust would approve. Harry intends to ask Ivy Gables to come to a meeting and address concerns. There is no timeline. Resident asked if the Town Meeting would be given an opportunity to vote on proposed plans that would have an impact on the Trustees. Harry said the Trustees would take the town's opinion and concerns into consideration.

New resident asked if there was a Trustees report. Joan Fitzgerald addressed the last few months of Land Rent and shortfalls, sending out County Senior Citizen rebates. Pat Lane has been dealing with town trees. She is waiting on final numbers but it looks like this year's budget is maxed out. Kristiana Dobrinski feels that the Trustees don't have reports at the meetings while conversations are happening behind the scenes. Steven Curley asked if Trustee meetings are open meetings. Pat and Joan responded that Trustee meetings are generally on demand, and with short notice. If a resident has questions they are encouraged to contact Trustees with questions.

Annie Lutz- Stones are loose in the Harvey Road divider. They are the responsibility of DeIDOT. Annie L. will contact Cheryl Regan for guidance.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Hansen