

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 10, 2018. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Terri Hansen | 15. Janet Cosgrove | 29. Susan Mearkle |
| 2. Annie Gutsche | 16. Pat Phillips | 30. Beverly Schilling Gillis |
| 3. Pat Lane | 17. Stefanie Lombardo | 31. Maura Lynch |
| 4. Shari Phalan | 18. Katrina Nelson | 32. Terry Harvey |
| 5. Cindy Cohen | 19. Christiana Dobrzynski | 33. Sue Cherrin |
| 6. June Kleban | 20. Joe Grippe | 34. John McCormick |
| 7. Andrew Hansen | 21. Harry Themal | 35. Alison Wakelin |
| 8. Judith A Glenn | 22. Edmond Bischoff | 36. Maureen Gordon |
| 9. Holly Custer | 23. Hans Francke | 37. Mary Lou Kime |
| 10. Joan Fitzgerald | 24. Hetty Francke | 38. Oliver Gutsche |
| 11. Shelley Robyn | 25. Janna E Schefflen | 39. Sharon Kleban |
| 12. Hardy Hoegger | 26. Dotty Verne | 40. Zac Stevenson |
| 13. Barbara A Conway | 27. Ann Balogh | 41. Jeana Carey |
| 14. Melissa Parsonson | 28. Steven Curley | 42. Brooke Bovard (guest) |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 2018 meeting were approved.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reporting: New residents at 2301 Sconset.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$56,076.56
Municipal Street Aid:	\$22,023.79
Arden Building and Loan:	<u>\$19,965.18</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$98,065.53

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Christiana Dobrzynski reporting:

- **COUNTY BAMBOO ORDINANCE:** New County bamboo ordinance, 17-007, was adopted January 2017 and the county has cited several people in the Ardens. There is a Bamboo Waiver form if residents want to keep their bamboo – they are responsible for maintaining it ON THEIR PROPERTY and containing it with a deep and thick rhizome barrier as per specs.
- **TRAILS:** Hal & Co. cleared and mulched the Station Path. They cleared trees downed for power company maintenance. Redtail Restoration helped clear the path into the Glenn from Appletree Ln., and Hal treated a yellow jacket nest on a step so it is safe to walk through now. Pink trail markers placed to clearly delineate the path from Sconset and Brae, to the stream path, and to navigate up the stream to Arden woods. Thanks to Rich Cropper who cleared the path under the power lines. Hal has been asked to clear the overgrown path between Brae and Sconset.
- **UNATTACHED ARDENTOWN LANDS:** Janna Schefflin, Elaine Schmerling and Redtail have removed invasives and poison ivy in the old Bickhart property and are placing milkweed, asters, goldenrods etc. in their place. Owner on Chestnut St. next to our land will be cutting the bamboo in that area in a month; he claims it “was always there” and is on town land. Land across the stream from Arden is very washed out from excess runoff.
- **COMPOST AREA:**
 - Rich Cropper is considering drainage solutions. Elaine Schmerling has been sprinkling Mosquito bits (natural Bt) to try to reduce mosquito population which has been terrible this year.

-Nick Liberman donated landscape cloth; 3 bins are now covered with tarps or landscape cloth to contain weeds. Efforts have been made to reduce weeds in parking lot area, maintain milkweeds and some flowering plants, so that area can be a "Monarch Waystation". Sue Hornung will try to get Candelight volunteers to help clear parking lot more in the fall.

- **SUNNYSIDE:**

Vandalism continues: Elaine Schmerling and Chris Monson continue to work to reverse vandalism and pick up trash.

They have probably taken out at least 10 bags of trash (lots of broken glass) and other large items this year, and filled in and dug out 2 separate mogul sites. An interested Radnor Green neighbor manages a neighborhood FB site; committee will try to get them involved in the Earthday Cleanup if not before.

CSX bulldozed a large spot in front of our path, cleared it and pushed trees back into Sunnyside, wider than the usual clearance. Thanks to Chris Monson who went later and chain-sawed the path open.

Elaine Schmerling is working with help to bag and trash the tree-of-heaven (TOH) seeds remaining from the trees that were cut down. She would like to cut all the TOH bordering Sunnyside to reduce the chance of the invasive lanternfly (TOH is its preferred host) invading the Ardens. Some remaining funds will be used in this effort.

There are still hundreds of mature trees left to save in Sunnyside that WILL die if we don't cut the invasive vines off. Every year new ones are found dead and pulled down by ivy and bittersweet, depending on where we walk (and its re-growing up trees in the regular woods where we had cut 10 or so years ago). A variety of invasive plants continue to seed in and displace our natives which feed wildlife. Funds are being used for a helper and Redtail Restoration to knock them back. If anyone wants to volunteer to help please join us often Thursday afternoons (call Elaine Schmerling to confirm) and we can save more trees. The goal is 100 a year.

- **FOREST EDUCATION:** Elaine Schmerling is working with the Arden Forest Committee on educational efforts. Please watch the Arden Page, Ardenistas, etc. for announcements.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Annie Gutsche reporting: Cortney organized a Spring clean up of the playground. It is now mulched, the broken toddler swing was replaced, and a drainage issue was resolved around the see saw.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal, Joan Fitzgerald and Pat Lane reporting:

- Issues with trees, large branch dropped across the Mall this past weekend. Ron's Tree Service cleaned up the limbs and will return to remove the rest of the tree.
- Senior discount checks were sent out to those who qualify. If you are 65 or older you may qualify for a discount on your property tax. Interested residents can contact Shari Phalan for more details.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen reporting: Effective immediately, I am stepping down as the Ardentown Representative to the Buzz Ware Village Center. It has been my pleasure to serve as your representative to the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee. Over the years that I have served I have always sought to be an assertive advocate for us and our yearly donation to the Buzz.

When we decided as a town to designate our donation to be used to fund community events and programs, I tried to focus my efforts on those agenda items. I sought to be sure that processes and procedures relating to these items were fair, easy to understand, fairly applied, and that our donation was being applied according to our designation. I am happy to report that it is clear that expenditures on public programs and events exceed our donation each year by a little bit.

I have not always agreed with some members of the Buzz Ware Committee and I had no compunction about voicing my concerns when I felt it was appropriate. Even with those disagreements my hat is off to those who step forward and do work that is hard, and frequently thankless. Everyone on the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee is working hard to make sure that the building is solvent, cared for, and well managed, we just don't always agree on how that happens.

Thank you for trusting me to be your representative and advocate, it has been a total honor to have that trust, I hope I have done you proud.

Shari Phalan will be the Town liaison to BWVC going forward.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Hans Francke reporting: The current Home Exhibit has been very successful. In October a new exhibit celebrating ACRA's 70th year will open, and will coincide with the yearly fundraising drive. Please come out and see it!

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Annie Gutsche reporting:

- Residents who would like to be on a Village email distribution list (limited to town-related information) should contact the Chair.
- Municipal Street Aid is up over last year by nearly \$2000. Public Works will be examining roads and prioritizing repairs.
- Waste Management contract: There is a little more work around language and when that is settled a new contract will be signed. The terms include a 3% increase over last year. If you are experiencing difficulties with pick ups, please contact Waste Management directly as indicated in the ACRA phone book and on our website. If you have trouble getting answers when you call, email or call Annie Gutsche for troubleshooting. Terri will verify that the contact number for Waste Management on the Website
- Reminder that town will be electing a new Chair at the next meeting. To date, one person has expressed interest.
- Carr Road/I95 construction update: Construction is delayed; DelDOT is putting project out for bid mid-Sept. Town Chairs met with DelDOT in June to address traffic concerns. The speed sign on Harvey Road collects data and that has been shared with us and Delaware State Police Troop 1:

Morning Peak 9-10 am average = 53 mph

Evening Peak 4-5/6-7pm average = 50 mph

Highest average = 57 mph (4-6 am)

Lowest average = 47 mph

A resident expressed concerns around visibility of signs on Harvey Road. DelDOT said that Villages are responsible for keeping signs clear.

A resident asked if the Harvey and Marsh intersection was addressed at the DelDOT meeting. DelDOT has modeled the intersection and nothing they do improves the situation. DelDOT is aware of the danger of Marsh Road and suggested that a comprehensive traffic calming project would be the best way to address.

- Contact with Waze community manager indicated that if the town installs "local traffic only" signs according to DelDOT requirements, WAZE can set limits in their app, which will help keep traffic from being diverted through the community during construction.

ELECTIONS:

Budget- Drew Hansen and Steven Curley unanimously elected and re-elected, respectively.

Registration- Alison Wakelin and Maureen Gordon re-elected unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A resident asked about low flying planes and wondered if a new committee could be created to look at this issue. Suggested that residents look at the airport website and also contact Amy Pollock, who may have ideas on who to contact.

A resident had made a suggestion at the Informational meeting in July to create a committee called the Ardentown Leaseholder Advocates to attend trustee meetings to represent the resident POV to Trustees and come back to communicate to residents and leaseholders. Resident stated as follows:

Purpose - to advocate for the Ardentown leaseholders' best interests in the short and long term on issues and business decided on and carried out by the Ardentown Trustees.

Description- elected positions comprised of at least 3 Ardentown leaseholders.

Term - at least one year per person, with terms for each expiring 12 months apart for continuity.

Duties - must attend every Trustees meeting held to discuss Ardentown business, to include any meetings where any of the Ardentown Trustees are present, either singly or together, where Ardentown business is discussed. They are to be copied on all Ardentown Trustees' communications relating to Ardentown business to include emails, written correspondence, conference calls, etc. Report to the leaseholders on Trustees' business at Ardentown quarterly and supplemental meetings.

The Chair will check by-laws and follow-up at the next meeting.

A resident noted that in 2018 the application which allowed the Ivy Gables project to move forward was signed only by one Trustee. In the Deed of Trust it states that two Trustees must agree. The Trustees stated that a new procedure is now in place requiring two signatures on any permissions.

The resident further noted that in our Deed of Trust there are two conditions: we cannot hunt, and we cannot cut timber. In view of that she demands that Mr. Loudon be required to submit in writing a request for permission to remove trees, and a list of trees planned for removal. She additionally demands that an arborist be hired as a consultant to protect and preserve the trees on his lot.

Discussion:

- A resident stated that he did not need written permission to remove trees on his leasehold. He contacted the Trustees who came to his leasehold, reviewed his request and gave verbal permission.
- A guest from Arden said that she has filled out forms to request permission to remove trees from her Ardentown leasehold, so there is clearly a process, and she thinks all leaseholders should follow the same process. She thinks hiring an arborist is a very good idea, but she is wondering who will pay for the arborist.
- A Trustee stated that requiring Mr. Loudon to create a list of trees to be removed and submitted to the Trustees is a reasonable request.
- Point of clarification- A resident clarified that hunting and cut timber is in our lease, not the Deed of Trust or the By-Laws. Further point of clarification- any vote by this meeting is not binding to the Trustees.
- A resident pointed out that the County is going to require the Loudons to mark these trees.
- A resident pointed out that the request and response for tree removal is designated to be in writing according to the Ivy Gables plans.
- A resident asked if we have a committee looking after the trees? Answer: Yes, the Trustees oversee town trees. The resident feels that we should have a committee to make sure that the plan submitted by Mr. Loudon is followed.

MOTION- That the Trustees notify and require George Loudon put in writing a request to remove trees, specify trees to be destroyed, mark those trees designated for destruction and those to be preserved. That list should be made public. In accordance with the lease any written consent will be given to the Loudons in response to their request. In Favor-33 opposed- 3 abstain- 6

MOTION- Appoint a small group to explore hiring an arborist coming to the November meeting with a cost and proposal for payment. In Favor- 13 Opposed- 15 abstain- 13

Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Hansen