

Sept 2012
minutes

Village of Ardentown

Established 1922

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Incorporated 1975

NOTICE

ARDENTOWN TOWN MEETING The New Candlelight Dinner Theatre

Monday, November 12~~th~~, 2012
7:30 pm

AGENDA (partial)

Home break-ins and other security issues – special discussion

Trustee's report: Possible update on Eden Rock!

Elections:

Community planning committee - 2 members, 2 year term

Town officers:

Town secretary

Town treasurer

Town chair

Committee Reports

A quorum is needed at the town meeting, please come!

160 copies
collected
stapled — 99.00
folded — 114.10

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 10, 2012. Enno Krebbers, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Barbara Mondzelewski | 11. Pat Lane | 21. Priscilla Campbell |
| 2. Jennifer Curley (new resident) | 12. Bob Lockerman | 22. Edmund Bischoff |
| 3. Enno Krebbers | 13. Suzanne Winkler Maguire | 23. Dotty Verne |
| 4. Terri Hansen | 14. Shelley Robyn | 24. Maureen Gordon |
| 5. Alison Wakelin | 15. June Kleban | 25. Elanie Schmerling |
| 6. Steve Cohen | 16. Joan Fitzgerald | 26. Sue Cherrin |
| 7. Cheryl Regan | 17. Betty Ann Thernal | 27. Barbara Conway |
| 8. Rusty Hoegger | 18. Harry Thernal | 28. Maura Lynch |
| 9. Hardy Hoegger | 19. Joy Mulholland | 29. Alex Rudzinski (guest) |
| 10. Sandy Landerl | 20. Sue Mearille | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Enno Krebbers, Town Chair

SPECIAL ITEM: The meeting thanked Betty Ann Thernal for 27 years of service as secretary to the trust. Joan Fitzgerald will be stepping into that role. Cake was enjoyed by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 14, 2012 meeting were approved, as written with no correction

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reporting for Committee. New leaseholders/residents listed below:

- 2300 Sconset Rd (Bob Denigris leaseholder), new tenants Sept 2012: Ariel and Ben Gruswitz
- 2311 Hilltop Rd (Janet Cosgrove leaseholder), new tenant June 2012: Jennifer Waltz Saemann
- 1505 Harvey Rd (Sandy Landerl leaseholder), new tenant 2nd flr August 2012: Deanna Stevensesen & 2 daughters
- 1515 Appletree Ln (Dick Cannon leaseholder), new tenant August 2012: Daniel Tran
- 2303 East Mall, new leaseholder May 2012: Toby and Clay Ridings (arden residents). There are several apartments on this leasehold and we are working on getting tenant names and information.
- 1507 The Mall, New leaseholder June 2012: Jennifer and Steven Curley

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barbara Mondzelewski

Operating Accounts:	\$ 38,795.58
Municipal Street Aid:	14,137.03
Arden Building and Loan:	<u>25,041.03</u>
Total Funds Available:	77,973.64

Enno Krebbers noted that we are on target relative to the budget; see more detail with respect to roads in Public Works, below.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Holly Custer, not in attendance, sent report via Enno Krebbers. No report currently complete with apologies for the delay. Expect a report for November meeting.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Rusty Hoegger, Maintenance continues on the fence rails that have failed. Handouts of rules and regulations for the Memorial Garden were made available.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Terri Hansen reporting for Beverley Fleming. No final numbers are available for the Peddlars, Potions, and Practitioners fundraiser that was held on Fair Day. Traffic was good and the vendors were very happy, so we expect good things. Mark your calendars with the next two fundraisers: New Year's Day Brunch and the 2nd Annual Speakeasy, February 23, 2013.

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Alison Wakelin- Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE: Cheryl Regan and committee members

The gutter work on Woodland Road by Barry Wallace's was completed at a cost of \$4,235. This was rather substantial, but would have been done anyway in the long run. The reason for having it done now was so all vehicles would be parking off the road to allow emergency vehicles unimpeded access. Although the vehicles are now parking off the road, the car tires are occasionally still in the gutter.

There was a car eating pothole by 1705 Millers road that had been temporarily patched along with some smaller holes by 2211/2207 Loreley Lane. Final repairs were completed on 9/5/12. This put us past the budget for roads, however repairing these now will prove to be a cost effective savings in the long run had we waited. Since we are under budget by a similar amount for snow removal the impact on the budget is not serious.

The road repair on East Mall had been previously completed but there are still issues arising from the water running down the street. Downing fixed the road cracks and over 2/3's of the water is now able to follow the road around and down to the creek. This is good, however the larger problem is that there should really be a drain at the end of the road as a great deal of water flows and settles into the public walkway that connects East Mall to Brae. It is a constant muddy swampy mess and has contributed to more trees now dying along the pathway. At this time there are 3 trees dying there. Three other trees have died along the Phibbs leasehold running along the glen also due to the river that flows down the path in the rainstorms from the past 2 years. Harry Thernal had one tree removed by the town on the community side of the path, but the Phibbs were told they must take care of the two trees that were along the path on the leasehold line. We were given 'permission' to remove these dead trees at their own expense. This issue was brought up at the coordinating committee meeting stating that everyone on East Mall has been protected from water leaching onto their leasehold because of the cobblestone curbs that were installed - so as all things do...water flows downhill to the end of the street. Downing has tried his best to fix the problem but because of the substructure of the road, it cannot be crowned in a way to completely eradicate the problem. Harry Thernal suggested an engineer be brought in to look at the situation. Pat Lane will talk to Hal about making sure NO more dumping takes place at the end of the East Mall. Enno Krebbers to contact other town chairs to see if there is an engineer in the Ardens who could help.

There was some recent graffiti on one of the white posts that hold the no parking chains at Eden Rock. It has 666 and an upside down cross applied to the left pole. There was still a lot of graffiti on the fence at Harvey road. Someone apparently not liking the Tom Gordon political sign spray painted on the sign as well as the fence. The sign has been replaced, and the fence was being powerwashed on Saturday.

The bulletin board has been measured for a new piece of plexiglass. With all the recent new graffiti, we may want to wait on installing it. It takes a bit of time to re-drill and install all the hardware for the new cover as it utilizes a piano (continuous) type of hinge. The meeting approved waiting for colder weather to install the new cover.

Signs: Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan

There are 18 wooden signs to be installed. These have a stained background and reflective lettering. There are another 9 that just need the stain applied, they already have reflective letters. Once done, they all will be installed. It appears the ugly July weather has passed and is now more conducive to removing old signs and installing the new ones and straightening some of the poles.

Two very faded stop signs have been replaced at Millers and Loreley Lane, however it still doesn't make everyone actually stop. Most individuals, slow down, look and keep moving.

The video surveillance sign had previously been installed by the composting site to the right of the gate where most of the dumping had been taking place. It appears that there is still some dumping being done.

Snow/sand: David Byer

Nothing to report this quarter

Ardentown Natural Lands Steward: Elaine Schmerling

Americorps crew is coming again! They will be here from 10/15/12 to 11/2/12. They will be returning to Sunnyside and will be working with Arden too.

COMPOSTING AREA: Pumpkins are really growing strong. The blueberries were recently rescued from the weeds and weed whackers. The area looks somewhat better. Alex R. has put in COUNTLESS hours clearing it up and hauling debris away. Hal is supposed to trim Monday and the bins should be turned the third week of this month. We will label which bins are for leaf dumping.

Elaine and Cheryl met with Carla who is the "caretaker" of the New Candlelight Theatre. She and others were busily cleaning up the grounds behind the theatre, weed whacking and removing weeds. We mentioned the dumping and that we thought a motion sensor light may help. She was very agreeable with the idea. Hal will be notified to give us an estimate on installing the motion sensor light.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Elaine Schmerling – nothing to report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Thernal

The path from the East Mall to Brae Road/Valley road has been cleared out, making the walk much better between the two roads. Nothing to report on Edenrock, but we may have some movement in the next two weeks.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT: Enno Krebbers

1. The state legislature has passed a new charter for Ardentown, incorporating the changes we asked for after approval at a previous town meeting vote. It is now necessary to formally adopt new by-laws that incorporate these changes. The key changes, already approved, are that the town chair will serve a two year term, maximum two terms, starting in 2012, and the town secretary will serve a two year term, unlimited as before, starting in 2013. Motion was made from the floor to accept the changes to the bylaws as written. Motion was seconded, voted on. Passed with no opposed.

2. Joan Fitzgerald has resigned as town secretary in order to serve as secretary to the trust. We are grateful for her diligent and efficient service. As town chair, Enno is particularly grateful for Joan's help when he was "learning the ropes".

Terri Hansen has volunteered to serve out Joan's term, which ends in November. She has been appointed to that role, and will run for election to a one year term in 2012 and, hopefully, a two year term in 2013. We welcome Terri and promise to take it easy on her for at least a little while.

3. The town meeting will recall that last year we adopted a new "disaster mitigation plan". After the flood resulting in the damage to the Bickhart property, it was necessary to pass a new one on an emergency basis in order to make us eligible for the relief that was later arranged. In order to avoid similar situations in the future, we are asking the town meeting to adopt a new plan. Passage of this plan makes us eligible for 12 other possible actions after a disaster. Some of these could be adopted on a preemptive basis, although that has yet to be explored. None of the changes oblige us to do anything either before or after a disaster, and there is absolutely no cost. This is a bureaucratic procedure so that we can be eligible to request funding for these actions should another disaster occur, avoiding the extra bureaucracy (which was irregular) we went through after the Bickhart incident. The possible actions include relocation or elevation of flood prone structures, various forms of retrofitting structures, soil stabilization projects, warning programs, eligibility for FEMA grant programs, actions related to emergency generators and education and outreach programs. Again, we do not HAVE to do any of these, but we wish to be eligible. Motion was made from the floor to accept the changes to the mitigation plan as written. Motion was seconded, voted on. Passed with no opposed.

4. Mosquitoes. The town chair has received complaints of mosquitoes and communicated these to DNREC. They responded as follows:

- In response to our request for help, their agency will be carrying out an inspection of the area and possibly setting CO₂ baited mosquito traps in the week or so after the town meeting. [The CO₂ traps consist of a small tank of carbon dioxide gas (to attract mosquitoes) attached to a battery-operated light and fan to draw the insects into a collection bag. The traps are set one afternoon and collected the following morning to target times of peak mosquito activity.] We may see some of their technical staff in the village.
- With answers to the questions below that we will discuss in a moment and the results of scouting work, the agency will contact town officials (me) with an outline of any measures recommended for the adult mosquito population.
 - a. Are they being bitten by mosquitoes during daylight hours? (8 responding yes) How about after dark? (18 responding yes)
 - b. Are the bites predominantly on legs, ankles, and feet? Evenly divided between lower body only and all over.
 - c. Are the mosquitoes small; do they seem to move quickly; and are they black & white striped? Only one resident reports seeing such insects (Asian tiger mosquitoes).

If the answers to these are YES, then Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), an especially problematic species, are the likely culprit. They bite during daylight hours, prefer to lay eggs in artificial water-filled containers (lawn ornaments/birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, children's toys, rain gutters, corrugated downspout extenders, trash can lids, etc.), and have a very limited flight range. The female mosquito will seek a blood meal within a few hundred feet of the standing water from which they hatched. The residents of Ardentown have most of the control, as well as the responsibility, when it comes to Asian tigers.

- They would then ask us for the go-ahead and measures, be they ground fogging, aerial spraying (unlikely for a small village), or nothing if the scouting shows there is not sufficient need, will go ahead shortly thereafter.

The town chair after discussion with the coordinating committee will then ask them to proceed if the committee agrees. Individuals who desire to "opt out" will be contacted by the town chair; the rules for opting out are such that it will probably be impossible to do anything. Such individuals are thus deciding that the risk of the low dose chemicals is higher than the risk of mosquito borne diseases. Such individuals will be put in touch with the people who spoke with us before for further discussion.

5. Parking has again become an issue on some streets. The trust, the village and some residents have taken action to address one such issue. This has resulted in some improvement, but not all residents are completely happy with the outcome. We ask everyone to observe the parking regulations, to encourage their neighbors to do so, and if there are practical problems to work with the town officials to come to a solution.
6. A "your speed is" sign will be installed on Harvey near the Millers intersection thanks to a grant from Bryon Short.
7. Good news - the energy grant is completed. The Candlelight has been insulated and the vents redirected, all at no cost to the village. All the funds came from the federal stimulus program, as administered by the state. We are pleased with the work and relieved that the associated bureaucracy is now behind us. Thank you to all those who helped, including the staff here at the Candlelight.

ELECTIONS:

Registration Committee- Janet Cosgrove is retiring from the Committee. We thank her for her service.

Nominated: Betty Ann Themal and Maureen Gordon- approved with no opposed

Budget

Nominated: Annie Gutsche and Holly Custer- approved with no opposed

In November we will elect 2 members for the Community Planning Committee, Town Secretary, and Town Chair. Alison Wakelin will be stepping down from Community Planning and so we are looking for a new person for that position.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Thank you from Steve Cohen for all of the help and enthusiasm for the 105th Arden Fair. It was a great success. Steve also reported that further improvements to HVAC at the Gild was made possible by continued co-operation between the 3 Ardens on the Energy Grant. Additionally, work was completed this summer to shore up the foundation under the 1910 addition to the front of the building, which currently houses the Library, the Entrance Lobby and the Bathrooms. The floor no longer sags and water is no longer an issue.

Thank you to the residents of Ardentown for their support of the 2012 ACRA Summer Camp, it was a great success and continues to be an integral part of the lives of our youth.

Questions were asked about what could be done to correct the inaccuracies in the 2012 ACRA Phone Book. Terri Hansen will take this concern to the ACRA Board and report back in November.

Elaine Schmerling encouraged all residents to police their leaseholds for standing water, which is a rich breeding ground for mosquitoes. See Public Works for the return of Americorp this Fall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted/


Terri Hansen
Secretary

Terri Hansen
Ardentown Secretary
1507 Harvey Road
Ardentown, DE 19810