

Village of Ardentown

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Nov. 17, 1997

Anne Canby
Secretary
Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 778
Dover DE 19901

Dear Secretary Canby:

At a meeting on Nov. 10, 1997, the residents of the Village of Ardentown voted unanimously to ask the Delaware Department of Transportation to grant to Ardentown a tract of land east of the village, for the purpose of assuring that it remains forever public and pristine.

We believe the parcel number is New Castle County 06-070.00-001. It is also titled by DelDOT as surplus Right of Way, Harvey Road and Interstate 95. That label reflects the fact that this land was acquired during the construction of the interstate more than 30 years ago but was and is not needed. This surplus DelDOT land directly abuts a smaller tract, also unused and pristine, that is part of the trust of the Trustees of Ardentown. The boundaries of the surplus DelDOT land are roughly Naamans Creek, I-95, Harvey Road and the trustees' land, which in turn runs parallel to the CSX Railroad tracks.

The Village of Ardentown intends to serve as the guardian of this land and is willing in any deed from the State of Delaware to guarantee that the tract will forever remain undeveloped and public parkland. In this effort we have the support of the other neighbors, the incorporated villages of Arden and Ardencroft, and of Radnor Green and Radnor Woods, which also seek assurance that this tract is preserved.

One vital reason for such preservation is that the land is part of the Naamans Creek watershed, an increasingly vulnerable area whose safeguarding is being undertaken by a wide effort involving state and federal agencies, neighborhoods and many citizens. The tract also serves as an important buffer between the interstate and nearby communities.

The Village of Ardentown is acting within the powers of its 1975 Act of Incorporation as a municipality. Section 1 (b) allows the Village " for any public, municipal, educational or charitable purpose [to] acquire by gift, grant, purchase, lease, demise, bequest or otherwise hold, real and personal property within and without the limits hereinafter prescribed."

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Thomas P. Gordon
County Executive

Edward J. O'Donnell, AICP
General Manager



87 Reads Way
Corporate Commons
New Castle, DE 19720

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE
ASSESSMENT DIVISION

March 3, 1998

Mr. Harry Thernal
2308 E. Mall
Ardentown, DE 19810

Dear Mr. Thernal:

This letter is to confirm the subject of our conversation this morning. If the Village of Ardentown were to acquire undeveloped property in its own name, the property would be exempt from taxation owing to Ardentown's status as an incorporated municipality. This is different from not-for-profit uses (charitable, religious, educational) which require the filing of an application for exemption.

If, however, some part of the property were developed for private use in future, the County would reserve the right to divide the property into taxable and exempt portions, as is the case with the Trustees of Arden.

Please let us know if we can provide any more information.

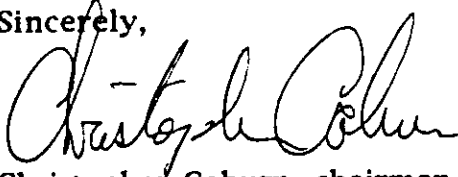
Sincerely,

Andrew Marinelli
Assessor I

We ask that the Department of Transportation reserve this tract for the purpose stated herein and notify the Village of Ardentown of how it wishes to proceed for a formal turnover.

We believe that such a gift from one level of government to another would serve the highest possible public purpose for land that is now all but inaccessible and must be protected.

Sincerely,



Christopher Coburn, chairman
Town Meeting of the Village of Ardentown
2202 Sconset Road, Ardentown, DE 19810

CC: Gov. Thomas R. Carper Jr.
Sen. Myrna Bair
Rep. Wayne Smith
New Castle County Executive Thomas Gordon
New Castle County Council President Stephanie Hansen
The Trustees of Ardentown
Chairman, Town Meeting of Arden
Trustees of Arden
Chairman, Town Meeting of Ardencroft
Directors of Ardencroft
Radnor Green Civic Association
Joseph Rosenthal, Esq.