

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 14, 2022 Alison Wakelin, Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Anne Lutz | 16. Joan Fitzgerald | 30. Micah Altman (new leaseholders) |
| 2. Cheryl Regan | 17. Oliver Gutsche | 31. Cortney Hayflinger |
| 3. Alison Wakelin | 18. Annie Gutsche | 32. Peter Slattery |
| 4. Steve Cohen | 19. Melissa Parsonson | 33. Elaine Schmerling |
| 5. Cindy Cohen | 20. William Parsonson | 34. Allan Kleban |
| 6. Maureen Gordon | 21. Chris Monson | 35. Edmond Bischoff |
| 7. Bev Hawkins | 22. Lisa Riblett | 36. Janna Scheflen |
| 8. Rick Hawkins | 23. Shari Phalan | 37. Mhairi Craig |
| 9. Lindsey Sherwood | 24. Terry Harvey | 38. Stuart Craig |
| 10. Jeana Carey | 25. Line Farr | 39. Harry Thernal |
| 11. Terri Hansen | 26. Chelsey Buscaglia | 40. Betty Ann Thernal |
| 12. Drew Hansen | 27. Mike Buscaglia | 41. Sharon Kleban |
| 13. Jill Emery | 28. Joe Grippe | 42. |
| 14. Dan Emery | 29. Gerry Marcus (new leaseholders) | |
| 15. Suzanne Cherrin | | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the November 2021 meeting are approved with a change from the Georgetown Prison to the Smyrna as written

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peter Slattery reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$ 31,379.50
Municipal Street Aid:	\$ 73,802.29
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$ 16,574.38</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$ 121,756.17

TRUSTEES REPORT: Lisa Wilson Riblett: Steps into the Glen: The Trustees have contracted Cropper, Inc. to remove the old wooden steps into the Glen and then replace and add additional steps. (We did ask if this work would qualify under the American Rescue Plan Act, but it does not meet the qualifications.) This work will likely happen this Spring. Jeanna Carey asks that the Trustees consider installing a handrail on the Glen steps. Lisa will look into this.

Safe Routes to School Update: DeIDOT is still on track for implementing the Safe Routes to School road changes at Harvey and Sconset Roads this coming Spring. We will let you know when we hear more information about an estimated start date. Footpath Restoration: The footpath between the Henry George Green and the Pettit Green was cleared by 12 hardworking volunteers this past Fall. Conversations are now happening regarding how to maintain this newly restored footpath and other footpaths, along with the Greens, which remain the responsibility of the Trustees, unlike the roads that were transferred to the Village. The Village budget has funds that help maintain these footpaths, but we hope you will help maintain any footpath that goes behind or alongside your leasehold. **Joan Fitzgerald: Land Rent:** There will be a small increase of 4 cents on the land rent. This represents an increase of \$40/year on a lot size of \$10,000 sq. ft. These bills will be going out tomorrow. Budget: The Budget has been finalized and is on the website for your review. Please reach out if you have questions. Harry Thernal: As a reminder, Harry announced in September 2020, he wanted to retire when he turned 90. He agreed to stay on until we could fill Pat Lane's vacancy. Lisa Riblett was confirmed in February 2021 and Harry is now 91. We are working on this notification letter, and it will go out in a week or so. Please

reach out to Lisa and let her know if you are interested. Joe Grippe asks what is going to be done about the request for a special Leaseholder meeting in conjunction with Harry's retirement and replacement. Joan Fitzgerald assures everyone that the request will be addressed in the letter that will be sent to Leaseholders. **Harry Themal: Fireworks:** Proposed ordinance against fireworks in Ardentown will be read and voted on under Old Business. **Harvey Road and Marsh Road Intersection:** These roads will be under construction for the next three months beginning as soon as the end of February.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Cindy Cohen reporting, **1. Committee Activity:** The committee met in January to get our new member, Melissa Parsonson, up to speed. She has agreed to take over the management of the Welcome packet materials. Due to Covid malaise, the committee has 4 Welcome packets still to distribute from the Fall, but will be getting them to the new residents over the next few weeks.

2. Recent Resident Changes: Since our November town meeting, other new residents we are aware of are:

- a. **Matthew Allen**, who recently bought 1504 Valley Road (Cichetti's, was Doris Boller/Sally Decker's).
- b. **Colleen Deemer & Conner McGivney**, who recently bought 1511 Harvey Road (Peter Willis').
- c. **Gerald Marcus & Micah Altman**, who recently bought 2317 Loreley Lane (Ginny Gotides').

They have been added to the Welcome packet distribution list.

3. ACRA Directory Notice: The next ACRA Directory (for 2022-2024) is heading to the printer in early March. If you wish to make updates to your personal information - to add yourself if you are not in the directory, or if you want to add a cell phone number, update an email address - please do so soon. You can do that by emailing your info to acradirectory@gmail.com, or by going to the following website and filling out the form:

<https://acracommunity.wpcomstaging.com/directory/>

4. Newcomers: Are there any new residents in attendance at tonight's meeting? If so, please let us know by unmuting yourself and saying hello.

As always, if you know of any other leasehold changes, or changes in rentals within Ardentown, please contact us.

It takes the whole village to keep track of all the comings and goings of our residents.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal reporting, Ardentown resident Sandra McCormick died September 21, 2021 and her ashes have been interred in the Memorial Garden.

Chris Monson and Betty Ann Themal whose terms on this committee are expiring, agree to stand for re-election.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Andrew Hansen reporting, The Budget committee proposed an amendment to section 6.5 of the village bylaws, which outlines the committee's responsibilities. The proposed amendment shifts the timing of budget approval to ensure the fiscal year begins with an approved budget in place, even if the fiscal year or the schedule of town meetings were to change.

The current language from the relevant portion of section 6.5 states, "The budget prepared by the Committee shall be reported and submitted for approval to the Town Meeting at its regular *February meeting*." The proposed amendment reads, "The budget prepared by the Committee shall be reported and submitted for approval to the Town Meeting at its regular *meeting immediately prior to the beginning of the Town's fiscal year*." (Italics added to highlight the specific change proposed.)

The first reading of the proposed amendment received unanimous support. The second reading is scheduled for the May meeting. If approved, the bylaws will be amended.

The Budget committee submitted its annual budget for fiscal year 2022, which runs from January 1 through December 31, 2022. The committee noted that there are a small number of items still being worked on, and called them to attention while reviewing the budget details. During discussion, the following updates and changes were made to the budget that was presented:

- In the Discretionary Income section:
 - Reduce the Suburban Cable/Verizon income from \$3,500 to \$3,100 and update "Suburban" to "Comcast"
 - Reduce the Arden Building & Loan (AB&L) interest from \$633 to \$500 due to the AB&L having refunded some shares in 2021 and decreased interest (Alison Wakelin and Joan Fitzgerald to review and confirm the AB&L interest figure for 2021.)
- In the Discretionary Expenses section:
 - W-2 preparation costs for 2021 to be confirmed
 - The \$25 to Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH) was removed

- The \$5,000 budget for the Town's centennial activities will come from savings vs operating costs
- The \$10,000 budget for roads was reduced to \$0, with the expectation of using available Municipal Street Aid and bringing any additional needs to the Town

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: nothing to report

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Melissa Parsonson reporting- There is currently an exhibit entitled "Images From The Ardens 1900-1960" in the Bernie Schwab Community Room. The exhibit is open during normal Museum hours, Wednesday, 7:30-9pm, and Sunday, 1-3pm. Recently The Ardens were featured in an episode of "Movers and Makers" on PBS. Residents who missed the broadcast can see it at this link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymJqZrWvZcY> Additionally, this has renewed interest in a 1972 film about Arden, which can be viewed here- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k_4WFDQRpl There is no projected reopening date for the museum, which is still undergoing renovations following a water leak.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Joe Grippe reporting- The community planning committee meetings were held on December 6th 2021 and January 17th 2022. The following topics were discussed at these meetings: An Inter-Arden Transportation working group has been started by Ben Gruswitz of ArdenCroft. Will Ryan and myself from the Community Planning Committee have been participants, along with Janna Scheflen from the Public Works and Safety Committee. There will be planned community wide meetings to review a plan once developed and solicit community input. The goal of this Inter-Arden working group is to create an 'Ardens Transportation Plan' to address transportation safety between the Ardens, focusing on the Harvey Rd, Veal Rd, and Marsh Road areas. The working group has partnered with WILMAPCO. Currently, the working group is drafting a WILMAPCO UPWP Request. Areas of focus include:

- Sets a vision for transportation safety and accessibility within the Ardens and to the surrounding community;
 - Fosters public participation and informs the plan with community feedback;
 - Inventories existing conditions and assets upon which to build;
 - Prioritizes projects to assist villages in implementation of improvements that collectively make the greatest impact on quality of life;
 - Highlights best practices—in Delaware and beyond—for traffic calming and infrastructure solutions for all travelers;
 - Identifies strategies and physical improvements for plan implementation by each municipality, DeIDOT, and other relevant parties;
 - Enables the Ardens to become a proving ground for infrastructure innovation in the state and region;
 - Explores options for improvements conducive to community character
 - Conforms with and considers historical context, community ideals, and existing community plans
 - Determines potential partners, resources, and revenue sources to expedite incremental plan completion;
2. Ardentown Centennial Celebration
 - Task assigned to Coordinating Committee in late January
 - Will have a meeting open outside of the community planning committee, let me know if you are interested.
 3. Committee is also working on Emergency Planning, Long Term Ardentown Plan, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) planning.
 4. Request for exemption to county law for small scale farm animals.
 - Goats, & chickens are the main requests.
 - sheep can be added with interest.

PUBLIC WORKS: Oliver Gutsche reporting, The Committee is planning to remove some "no parking signs" on The Mall and Millers Road. Many of these signs are old and rusty, and the Committee would like to reduce the amount of signage in the Village. There was some concern expressed by residents that the loss of the signs may increase illegal parking

while others like the idea of fewer signs. The Committee will observe how the removal of no parking signs affects parking habits and reassess signage as needed.

Chris Monson has noticed some cracking on Swiss Lane. Pictures were taken and sent to Smith Paving.

There is a speeding problem on Sconset Road and it is of concern because there are several children who play on the Mall next to Sconset. The Committee is planning to have a meeting with Sconset Road residents to discuss solutions and will bring proposals to a future Town Meeting. Residents from the floor commented that there is a specific vehicle identified as a primary problem. Residents wonder if there should be specific outreach to the residents on Sconset Road to ask them to slow down. Residents on Valley Road would like to be included in any meeting. Other residents note that speeding is a Village-wide issue that needs to be addressed.

Paths & Restoration - Elaine Schmerling Sunnyside – Chris Monson put up the new signs at Sunnyside boundaries. We have had a few ventures into Sunnyside saving over 60 trees from English ivy and clearing various invasive shrubs to reduce the seed sources. We need to go a few more times more to make my goal of at least 100 saved each winter – and clear areas for possible spring native tree/shrub planting. Call Elaine Schmerling if you want to join us on a warm afternoon! Possibly Thursday or Fri this week depending on the weather. **Ardentown** – Nick :iberman, Chris Monson, & William Parsonson helped take down large dead cedar trees to the left of Janna Schefflen’s house on the trail; Janna Schefflen, Melissa Parsonson, & Elaine Schmerling cleared a lot of multiflora rose off the trail in Ardentown area behind it. Lots more work to do here. We have a beautiful piece of land on both sides of the creek here in need of restoration. We have cleared some invasives behind Lee & Joe Painter’s, and hope to go Wed afternoon to clear invasives in the Glen below E. Mall, to allow the special wildflowers in this area to spread. **SLF** – I plan to have several SLF egg scraping walks in March/April. Look in Page or social media. **Benches** –New recycled benches were in for the New Year! Huge thanks to Chris Monson who picked them up and replaced the rotting benches on the Petit and Mall! **Earthday Cleanup** – with Naaman’s Creek Watershed Assoc, will be April 2. However we in the Ardens can continue on our own time, through April 9. Details in upcoming Pages.

Playground- Cortney Hayflinger reporting, Some of the old rails are down. An estimate for the new fence, which will be cedar, was sent to the Budget Committee. There is also included in the Budget estimate the cost to rent a power auger to dig new post holes.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Shari Phalan reporting: **Employment** - Currently looking for part-time maintenance staff. **Rentals** - Five new rentals; website has pictures of actual set up of rentals **Coffee House** - November \$186 donations, \$148 at the door and \$38 beverages December \$203 at the door; \$28 beverages **Move and Be Well** - Joan Phibbs once-a-week class starting 2/2 **Stage ceiling** is being removed **Roof repairs** have been completed **Exterior Lighting** along pathway is being considered **ARPA** (American Rescue Plant Act) - use of the money being discussed (\$219 for the Village over 2 years) **Arden Bookies** - 2nd Monday of the month **Arden Fiber Arts** - canceled until further notice **Artisan Trail** - Success. \$290 in donations **Art on the Town** - 12/2/21; Jill Althouse Wood; sales \$720, 10% to BWVC 12/3/21; Elizabeth Bard’s “Light Weavings”; 33 guests; \$63 donations; **Awakened Heart** - working on lease lease, month-to-month **Arden Bookies** using Zoom until further notice **Mask Mandate** - following the Governor’s protocols for public events.

TOWN CHAIR: Alison Wakelin reporting- We will be signing up with the State of Delaware for their mosquito control program. This makes it possible to have spraying done to control mosquito populations, but we have never had to avail ourselves of that. A small committee consisting of Joan Fitzgerald, Oliver Gutsche, Lisa Riblett and Alison Wakelin completed an ADA compliance survey in compliance with the DelDOT Office of Civil Rights, available upon request. As a small community we are not obligated to be in compliance with many of the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but we are obliged to conduct such a review.

Arden has created a governance committee to review their Town documents, and Alison suggests we should gather our town documents and make a timeline of our significant events. Arden is considering how to strengthen any Tri-Arden efforts to influence County government, and we will be informed of any developments.

The intersection of Green and Walnut in Arden is the source of large amounts of stormwater flowing into Ardentown. There has been a joint proposal with Arden to implement the improvements contained within Arden’s stormwater report available on their website. Ardentown and Arden would each contribute \$6,000 to the project, which includes permeable paving at the four corners, plus a bioswale strip to back up the permeable paving at the corner where Walnut turns right into Green. This project will benefit Ardentown by reducing runoff into our Village. This is

being submitted to the lawyers to make sure this would be an approved use of ARPA funds. Moved to approve, passed with no objection.

Melissa Parsonson would like the Stormwater Committee to please come and look at a stream that runs from the Candlelight, through her leasehold and on to her neighbor's leasehold. If anyone has any Stormwater projects that might qualify for ARPA funds, please bring them to the attention of Alison Wakelin, or Terry Harvey, Chair of the Stormwater Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: The entire text of the proposed “**Discharging explosives in the Village of Ardentown Ordinance 01-2022**”, which was sent out in the November 2021 minutes and appears on the Ardentown Website, were read aloud at a second consecutive Town Meeting. There was some discussion from the floor and a motion was made from the floor to accept the new ordinance as written. This motion was seconded and the Ordinance passed with a majority of the vote.

NEW BUSINESS: Terri Hansen reporting- Terri Hansen has been working on redesigning and reorganizing the Village website to improve the user experience and bring additional functionality to the site. Our website was originally designed in conjunction with the Delaware State Government Information Center (GIC), which continues to host the site and provide support and security. Ardentown voted to use this service because it is free to Delaware municipalities, provides robust and consistent support, uses a stable platform that provides continuity of management, and is in use by many Delaware municipalities. Terri Hansen has begun working with the staff at the GIC to reimagine our website and is receiving virtual training from the GIC. Changes will be coming in the next few months.

ELECTIONS:

Archives- Melissa Parsonson, re-elected unanimously. Terri Hansen was appointed to fill vacancy with a 2023 election date.

Memorial Garden- Betty Ann and Chris Monson, re-elected unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted By

Terri Hansen, Secretary of Ardentown