

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022 Alison Wakelin, Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Alison Wakelin | 17. Pat Lane (phone) | 33. Drew Hansen |
| 2. Cindy Cohen | 18. Janet Cosgrove | 34. Melissa Parsonson |
| 3. Steve Cohen | 19. Janna Scheflen | 35. Suzanne Cherrin |
| 4. Uttam Shanbhag | 20. Joan Fitzgerald | 36. Chelsey Buscaglia |
| 5. Sofia Hogan Shanbhag | 21. Shelley Robyn | 37. Sharon Kleban |
| 6. Anne Lutz (phone) | 22. Bev Hawkins | 38. John Cronin |
| 7. Cheryl Regan (phone) | 23. Rick Hawkins | 39. Peter Slattery |
| 8. Barbara Mondzelewski | 24. Lindsey Sherwood | 40. Susan Kaye |
| 9. Cortney Hayflinger | 25. Lisa W. Riblett | 41. Micah Altman |
| 10. Joan Warburton-Phibbs | 26. Marian Pione | 42. Gerry Marcus |
| 11. Hugh Phibbs | 27. Michael Pione | 43. Beverly _____ Registration
has been unable to
confirm the identity of this
person, possibly someone
signed in to meeting twice |
| 12. Shari Phalan | 28. Annie Gutsche | |
| 13. Harry Thernal | 29. Oliver Gutsche | |
| 14. Betty Ann Thernal | 30. Maile Gusche (intern) | |
| 15. Terri Hansen | 31. Chris Monson | |
| 16. Joe Grippe | 32. Elaine Schmerling | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for February 2022 amended to reflect that Shelley Robyn was in attendance. Minutes for the February 2022 meeting are approved

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Operating Accounts:	\$62,679.15
Municipal Street Aid:	\$68,627.29
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$17,269.82</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$148,576.26

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Thernal: Harry said there was a letter mailed to all leaseholders asking for suggestions for a Trustee to replace him. He noted that the Trustees will be accepting nominations until May 13.

Joan Fitzgerald: Joan said that Cindy Cohen has accepted the position of Secretary to the Trustees.

Lisa Wilson Riblett: Lisa said four new dogwood trees will be planted on The Mall in memorial to Hal Goodwin, Jr. as part of our Centennial celebrations on Sunday, May 15, beginning at 10:00 am. Also, a general clean up of The Mall will take place then. If anyone wants to help, please reach out to Lisa or Joe Grippe. We would be glad for the help. Regarding the Safe Routes to School project, all the paperwork has been finalized and DelDOT said the work is out for bid. We do not know the start date yet.

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').

They have been added to the Welcome packet distribution list.

3. 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: nothing to report

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: nothing to report

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Melissa Parsonson reporting- Masks are still required due to the pandemic. "Postcards from the Past" on Ardenistas Facebook page has had a lot of success. The link for the WHYY TV 12 featuring the Ardens is available for viewing on the ACSM website. Currently, an intern is working on scanning and digitizing the Ardentown leasehold book. A historical society marker for Ardencroft has been approved. Their 75th anniversary is in 2025.

The Ardentown Centennial exhibit will be featuring the background of how Ardentown came in to existence and the philosophy of the village. The public spaces, theater, and businesses will also be featured.

Renovations to the museum are still ongoing.

PUBLIC WORKS: Oliver Gutsche reporting- Two new speed bumps have been installed on Sconset Road and seem to have been effective to address the speeding issue. There is still discussion around having a roundabout placed with permeable pavement around it. Oliver is looking into costs and materials. Harry Themal asked if a plan would come to a Town Meeting for a vote, Oliver affirmed a plan would be presented for a vote.

Elaine Schmerling reporting- Arbor Day Tree Planting – Celebrated April 23: planted a black gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, tree at intersection of Millers and Orchard. This will grow straight and we will prune lower branches so it won't interfere w/visibility. Thanks especially to Allan Kleban & Lisa Riblet for transporting, digging and protecting the tree. This is our gift for being a Tree City USA-Tree Proclamation attached in Chat for your reading pleasure! Hopefully generations after us will enjoy this black gum tree and we hope it can absorb lots of water over the years with its deep roots!

Sunnyside – Elaine Schmerling has had several ventures into Sunnyside with either Redtail Restoration or volunteers. We made our goal of saving at least 100 trees from English ivy this winter/spring. We are clearing various other invasives too (and in doing so found one more tree of heaven tree inside between 2 trails, to eradicate in September). Nick Liberman helped and we planted several trees and blackberry bushes from volunteers in Elaine Schmerlings yard, to fill in empty spaces where invasives were removed.

Now it's garlic mustard season, time to start pulling as we have done for several years: from the good areas by the creek and up. We always welcome volunteers for this – pulled plants should go in yard waste containers! Thanks Lee Painter especially for pulling this!

Across Marsh Rd – Janna Schefflen & Elaine Schmerling had 2 sessions 1) planting a few baby red cedars to replace the dead ones taken down (and pulled more honeysuckle and bittersweet which had killed the large cedars); and 2) finished digging some of the multiflora rose roots from where we had cut in Dec, and planted several volunteer native shrubs there too. We are trying to stack the cut thorny stems all around to protect from deer – worth a try at least!

SLF –Finishing up egg scraping in major areas. We eradicated over 1500 SLF egg masses this year focusing on just a few hot spot areas– especially below Harvey Rd. behind Maura Lynch's leasehold, near all the rail areas, and along the Station Path. The good news is we found only a few below Brae Rd and Brae Rd paths – probably because the tree of heaven trees (TOH) have been eradicated in that area! That should make a difference eventually in the other areas. It's time to put bags up on the traps, we'll try to start doing this Thursdays in May, targeting maples & birches first. We are also putting inward-facing tape traps up only on TOH and Bee Bee Trees (by rail areas and on the one in Sunnyside). We have small-medium bee bee trees to cut down on town land below Harvey rd.

TOH trees behind Hope Zucker's & Paul Romagano's – unfortunately 2 of the 4 we tried to kill on town land appear to have life in them. I will talk with Ron's tree service on cutting in a safe way the 2 that are dead, and the remaining 2 for next winter, to let them down on the hillside without hurting Hope or Paul's fence & sheds.

Pollinator Club? – Lee Painter & Elaine Schmerling weeded and planted a bit more in the 2 newer pollinator gardens on the Petit across from Gutshes & Susan Kaye. In place of invasive weeds we & Terry H have planted donated native plants. Most recently got some donated from the Gardeners Gild sale. We have also weeded some in the triangle across. Would anyone want to join a Pollinator Club? Call or see Elaine Schmerling or Lee Painter!- Uttam Shanbhag and Oliver Gutsche are interested in attracting pollinators and will work with Elaine and Lee.

Stormwater- Alison Wakelin reporting for Terry Harvey- Water runs into the Pettit Green from Arden, then exits the Pettit Green at the lower corner and flows towards the woods. Two rain gardens are planned for the Pettit Green, and the

placement is currently marked with flags. One garden will filter water as it runs into the Green, the other as it exits. Work should begin on these rain gardens before the end of Spring. These rain gardens are in addition to the previously approved Pettit Biofiltration Strip, maximum budget \$1000.

The next project is water running on Loreley, Orchard and Millers. Stormwater crosses the leaseholds between Loreley and Orchard, which creates a huge problem for the leaseholds along Millers Road. We want to create a gutter on Loreley to direct the water along Loreley to Millers, and once the effectiveness has been assessed, work to address any further problem on Millers. To use ARPA funds we have to meet certain criteria. Restrictions have been reduced, so we can use it for any municipal projects, but have to make sure we meet requirements around collecting bids. Joe Grippe is working with us on that.

The Stormwater committee requests that we vote to pre-approve \$20,000 for the Millers/Loreley project. Discussion from the floor- What about the water run-off on the East Mall?- That area is getting a walk through next week. It may be possible to use ARPA funds to apply for matching grants to do that work. Melissa Parsonson expressed concern about the spring in the Candlelight parking lot. The Stormwater Committee is working with Andy Bowman of DNREC. Joe Grippe- Shouldn't we have a list of projects to prioritize for ARPA spending? Alison Wakelin wants to move forward with the Millers/Loreley project over the Summer. Joan Fitzgerald- Will water that comes rushing from Walnut between her leasehold and Uttam Shanbhag's be dealt with? Alison Wakelin says that area is still being explored, but since it runs down Loreley, that problem will be alleviated. Harry Thernal- what about East Mall where the water rushes down the Parsonson's, Gordon's, Brandner's, and Phibb's leaseholds?

Moved and seconded that the Stormwater Committee be pre-approved to spend up to \$20,000 on the Loreley/Millers project. Vote passed with majority

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Shari Phalan reporting- Coffee House Making plans to hold an outdoor Coffee House on May 14 Strength & Mobility Waiting to resume; offered using Zoom Chair Yoga One day session Awakened Heart Holding outdoor meetings ACRA Plans in the making for 2021 Mural Finished and is beautiful. PPP No fair updates, yet. Toby Ridings would like to step down. Any volunteers? Dominic Chen June, students resume July - students low Art on the Town Canceled - However, they are proposing an outdoor event for Memorial Day weekend. Possibly displaying Rick Rothrock sculptures outside of the BWVC and 2 to 3 additional artists. All activities would be outdoors. Art Loop is back! Financial Electrical issues are being repaired and at reasonable costs. May need another employee for cleaning. Bldg. Mgr. has a new wage schedule. Discussion of the possibility of purchasing a large tent to support more outdoor activities. Air Purification System Proposal - \$2,900 includes replacement of all thermostats. Awakened Heart Donation \$554.64 Strength & Mobility - \$755 donation were received. One rental to report - wedding Room 3 New Screens needed at French doors Website Updated to include COVID building procedures

PLAYGROUND: Cortney Hayflinger reporting- Bits of the fence have been removed and he is getting a quote for the replacement tomorrow. Hoping to have the new fence installed by the end of the month.

AUDIT/BUDGET: Andrew Hansen reporting- The Audit has not happened due to scheduling difficulties and will be happening ASAP. Report will be available ahead of the September meeting, where it will be formally reported.

Second reading of the change to the section of the Bylaws dealing with the Budget Committee. Vote to approve the change was unanimous

TOWN CHAIR: Alison Wakelin reporting- Welcome to Maile Gutsche, our Ardentown intern. Many of you may have received a letter from the County Land Use Office. This is related to a change of zoning on the parcel of land that the electric pylon tower sits on at Sconset and Harvey Roads. It will be changed from commercial, industrial and office (COI) to Resource Preservation, bringing it into compliance with the rest of the common land in Ardentown.

When we receive Municipal Street Aid, it is based on population. This population number comes from the Delaware Population Center, which estimates Ardentown as 270. Alison is working to have that number increased because Ivy Gables has received its certificate of occupancy. The DPC reviews population figures every October. The 2020 census reported Ardentown's population as 255, but the DPC acknowledged that there are issues with the census figures.

ELECTIONS: Public Works- Paul Romagano and Elaine Schmerling are re-elected unanimously. Melissa Parsonson has resigned and there is currently a vacancy. If anyone is interested in serving, please reach out to Alison Wakelin, who can appoint someone to serve out Melissa's term, which ends next year.

Playground- Annie Gutsche re-elected unanimously, there is a vacancy

Audit- Andrew Hansen, Stefanie Lombardo, and Terry Harvey are all unanimously re-elected.

OLD BUSINESS: Steve Cohen- The workers at the Delaware Correctional Industries unit at the Vaughn Correctional Center have completed work on the Ardentown sign. Chris Monson will work on getting it installed on Harvey Road just before Sconset. Lisa Riblett expressed concern about that placement because of the Safe Routes to School project. Chris does not believe it will be in the way of that project. Harry Themal asked if anyone had reached out to DelDOT about this sign. There has been no contact with DelDOT. Melissa Parsonson asked if there would be any kind of formal unveiling of the sign. As of now there are no plans for a formal unveiling.

Chris Monson would like to thank whoever was responsible for getting Ivy Gables to turn out their lights at night. It has made a big difference in the quality of life for those that border the facility.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Grippe- As we begin to exit the Covid Pandemic, how are we going to handle Town Meetings going forward? Are we going to want to have a hybrid model? He proposes buying equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings. Steve Cohen supports the idea of equipment, but wants to see a firm plan and list of equipment before approving funds. Peter Slattery also expressed a desire to see a plan and purchasing list. Terri Hansen suggests checking with the Candlelight to see what equipment they might have that they would be willing to let us use before buying things we may already have access to. Janna Schefflen asked about cameras, she has been teaching in different formats for the last two years and could help. Joe Grippe asks anyone interested in working on plans for hybrid meetings to reach out to him. He will have a plan to present to the September Meeting.

Terri Hansen announced that she is stepping down as Ardentown Secretary and Melissa Parsonson has graciously agreed to be appointed by Alison Wakelin to serve out the remainder of her term, which ends in November 2024. Terri has served as Secretary for over 10 years and it has been her honor to be of service to her community. She will be available to help Melissa transition on as Secretary and to be of any assistance that may be needed while Melissa learns the job.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Hansen
Ardentown Secretary