

The regular meeting of the **May 2023** Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on **Monday, May 8, 2023**, in person in the Candlelight Theater and online via Zoom. Melissa Parsonson, Acting Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Melissa Parsonson | 11. Lindsey Sherwood | 21. Bethany Rees |
| 2. Cindy Cohen | 12. Rick Hawkins | 22. Patrick Scolnick |
| 3. Alison Wakelin | 13. Lori Fleuter | 23. Elaine Schmerling |
| 4. Steve Cohen | 14. Scott Fleuter | 24. Marian Pione |
| 5. Jill Emery | 15. Oliver Gutsche | 25. Michael Pione |
| 6. Daniel Emery | 16. Peter Slattery | 26. Shelley Robyn |
| 7. Lisa Wilson Riblett | 17. Joe Painter | 27. Samantha Smith |
| 8. Annie Gutsche | 18. Lee Painter | 28. Maura Lynch |
| 9. Betty Ann Themal | 19. Susan Kay | 29. Sharon Kleban |
| 10. Suzanne Cherrin | 20. Maureen Gordon | |

Attendance via Zoom:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Anne Lutz | 3. Uttam Shanbhag | 5. Shari Phalan |
| 2. Sofia Hogan-Shanbhag | 4. Cheryl Regan | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the February 2023 meeting are approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peter Slattery reported the following current balances as of May 1, 2023.

Operating Accounts:

Checking:	\$28,434.25 (Income*: \$35,868.49; Expenses**: \$10,920.36)
Savings:	\$23,274.60 (Income: \$8.51; Expenses: \$0)
	<i>*Income includes Trustees (\$31,500), Verizon (\$683.01), Comcast (\$380.77), AB&L (\$304.71), Restoration Donation (\$3,000)</i>
	<i>**Expenses include Trash Tech (\$9,099.12), Restoration (\$1,543.25) & Admin (\$277.99)</i>
Municipal Street Aid:	\$23,084.40
ARPA Funds:	\$76,782.92
Arden Bldg & Loan:	\$17,269.82

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Jill Emery reported the committee met in February for the initial audit. Records were in good condition with 13 questions regarding missing data. No errors found. To date, approximately half of the open items have been resolved. We are waiting for some information to return from the CPA and there are just a few open questions. All committee members are willing to serve another term.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Lisa Wilson Riblett reported Ardentown glen in poor condition – steps need replacing, bridges need repairs and stones. DNREC has some matching grants, hoping to get one for \$8k, hoping to earmark for other half of matching from ARPA money.

Motion: Approval to use a maximum of \$8K in ARPA money for bridges & steps in Ardentown glen.

Motion seconded.

Vote: All in Favor: Unanimous. Motion passes.

NCC Ivy Gable assessment monies – lawyer taking action, court date later this month. Hoping court will enforce Ivy Gables to pay.

Annie Gutsche reported water runoff issues on Ardentown greens begun, looking at aerating the greens.

Motion: To use \$4k of ARPA money for aerating the greens 2x/year for the next 2 years, while ARPA money is available.

Motion seconded.

Vote: All in Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Cindy Cohen reported the committee met on April 29th and is updating information intake form for new residents. Welcome to new resident Sherri Lindner, who just moved into 1520 The Mall (formerly Joe Grippe's home) at the end of April. A Welcome packet is on its way to her. If you know of any other new residents in Ardentown, please contact a member of the Registration Committee.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reported they met on May 4th. Will install plantings on fence adjacent to Ivy Gables property, rhododendrons and other bushes doing poorly to be removed.

INTERNSHIP COMPLETION: Alison Wakelin reported Maile Gutsche has completed her Ardentown Internship work and was presented with a certificate and \$100 – congratulations on completing the program!

COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE: Melissa Parsonson reported no meeting held, nothing new to report.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: Janet Cosgrove not in attendance, no report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Alison Wakelin reported no meeting held, nothing new to report.

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY:

- Roads: Oliver Gutsche reported on roads: Loreley has potholes needing paving: \$13k from Harvey to Millers. Bid also included another \$5k for Belgian block resetting during pothole repair/repaving. Would like to use ARPA funding for the \$5k belgian block work. Open discussion on Belgian block pros and cons. Oliver clarified paving to be from first pothole coming in off Harvey to last pothole before Millers. Also confirmed that the Sconset speedbump re-paving will be done at same time.

Motion #1: Amend FY 2023 budget to include \$23k in Municipal Street Aid for Public Works expenses.
Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

(Public works can now spend the \$13k they need for Loreley.)

Motion #2: Approval of \$5K of ARPA money to reset Belgian blocks on Loreley from Harvey to Millers.
(Attorney would need to approve use of ARPA funds.) Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: 6 in person, 1 online; Against: 8 in person; Abstained: 8 in person.

Motion does not pass.

Motion #3: Approval to spend \$5k to fix bottom of East Mall green to allow trucks more access to turn, with approval from the Coordinating Committee. Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: 21 in person, 1 online; Against: 1 in person; Abstained: 3 in person.

Motion passes.

- Stormwater Committee: Elaine Schmerling reported Rain Garden work included repairing the flow from Loreley by Edmond Bischoff. Need to consider yearly maintenance plan. Encouraged residents to help keep drains by their houses clear. Also mulched/papered rain garden berms: thanks to Lee & Joe Painter, Edmond & Lori Fleuter, and Susan Stith who helped plant grass and plants on the berms. Also looking into use of rocks to slow drain flow in front of Slattery's, in consultation with Dave Daggars.
- Earth Day Cleanup: Elaine Schmerling reported a great turnout for Earth Day - from ages 4 to 88! A full bag of trash was collected around Candlelight parking lot, Got Junk picked up some bulk items, pulled 6 bags of garlic mustard out of our woods. Thanks to Mary Patterson, Uttam Shanbhag, Ray Duffy, Will Ryan & kids, Lee Hoover, Lori Fleuter, Elise Kidd & Mhairi Sutherland Craig.
- Trees/Forest Work: Ron's Trees cut down all the dead Tree of Heaven trees behind Hope Zucker & Paul Romaganos' homes off Sconset. Working on removing trees by the power lines by the Mountain Laurels, Pinxter azaleas and silky dogwoods. Can use more helpers. Tree restoration work continuing with Redtail and volunteers to pull garlic mustard in Sunnyside, and the entire hillside behind Edmond's to the Slatterys' is full of it. Still more

to do before the seeds open up – contact Elaine if you want to help or know a student needing volunteer hours! Fewer poison hemlocks this year on Chestnut Street lands and old Bickhart leasehold. The Bickhart leasehold is becoming a forest of sycamores, some which could be dug up for restoration plantings.

PLAYGROUND: Melissa Parsonson reported playground cleanup occurred recently.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Shari Phalan reported 4 new rentals, a number of community events requests, Art Loops in March & April – Burslem Stoneware now. Coffee Houses ongoing, 25th celebration tabled. ACRA summer program to be held June 24-29, successful February Telebration, Tai Chi & yoga classes ongoing, Arden Bookies, Free Little Library doing well. 100th year celebration of the Arden School is coming up in 2024, discussions underway.

ARCHIVES (ARDEN CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM): Lindsey Sherwood reported (for Bev Hawkins):

Thanks to the Residents and Trustees of Ardentown for their continued support of the Arden Craft Shop Museum with the generous yearly donation. The Arden Craft Shop Museum, in support of the Arden Artisan's Collective will host "Afternoon with the Artist" 4 times a year in the Bernie Schwab Room of the Museum. This is an art show of short duration (1-2 weeks), open to all artists and forms of art, who may or may not be members of the Collective, but must be a resident of the Ardens. The next "Afternoon with the Artist" will be August 13th and application deadline is May 26th. Contact Beverly Bizup Hawkins (Museum) or Jill Althouse-Wood (Artist's Collective). Other "Afternoon with the Artist" events will be in November, February and May. Watch for announcements in the Arden Page and be sure to visit the museum often, open Wednesdays 7:30-9 pm & Sundays 1 – 3 pm.

TOWN CHAIR: Melissa Parsonson, as Acting Chair, reported that we are seeking a new Town Chair, since as of Thursday, April 27th, Joe Grippe no longer resides in Ardentown. Also seeking attorney feedback on online voting at town meetings for hybrid meetings going forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Alison Wakelin proposed buying leaseholds and building small houses – to be presented to Community Planning Committee – Alison, Shari Phalan & Sofia Hogan-Shanbhag want to be included.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **WILMAPCO Ardens Transportation Plan** – <http://www.wilmapco.org/ardens>
WILMAPCO will present their final draft proposal at the Buzz Ware Village Center in June (date still TBD but hoping June 6-8 timeframe). Proposal will be posted on WILMAPCO website on June 1st. Public comments to close on June 19th, then final proposal to be posted on June 23rd. At that time all 3 Ardens will hold their own special town meetings to vote on the plan concepts – hoping to hold the Ardentown meeting sometime the last week of June/first of July – has to be done by July 13th.

Motion: To hold special town meeting to vote on WILMAPCO Ardens transportation plan, date TBD (late June/early July). Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

- **Sewer System:** Maura Lynch would like sewer system revisited – hers is lower than sewer line. Discussion from attendees indicated it may be a NCC issue, not a town issue.
- **Town Trees:** Maura Lynch would like the trees between her property and Harvey Road looked at.

ELECTIONS:

- **Public Works:** Nick Liberman, Chris Monson, & Janna Scheflen's terms are expiring this month. Chris will step off committee but will still help, Edmond Bischoff would like to join, taking Chris Monson's place.

Motion: Approve Nick Liberman, Edmond Bischoff & Janna Scheflen be elected to the Public Works Committee for May 2023-May 2025 terms. Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

- **Community Planning:** Replacement needed for Joe Grippe's Nov 2022-2024 term. Alison Wakelin would like to serve out Joe's term.

Motion: Approve Alison Wakelin be elected to the Community Planning Committee to serve out Joe Grippe's November 2022-2024 term. Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

- **Playground**: Cortney Hayflinger's term is expiring this month. He is willing to stand again. There is still another open spot on the committee, but no one in the meeting stepped up, so that vacancy will remain.

Motion: Approve Cortney Hayflinger re-elected to the Playground Committee for May 2023-May 2025 term.

Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

- **Audit**: All members up for re-election May 2023: Jill Emery, Chair; Stefanie Lombardo, Terry Harvey. All are willing to stand for re-election.

Motion: Approve Jill Emery, Stefanie Lombardo & Terry Harvey be elected to the Audit Committee for May 2023-May 2024 terms. Motion seconded.

Vote: In Favor: Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

- **Assessment**: Replacement needed for Joe Grippe's term. No one volunteered to stand, position to remain vacant.
- **Town Chair**: Replacement needed for Joe Grippe's term. No one volunteered to stand, Town Secretary to continue to run meetings in absence of a Town Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Cohen, filling in for Melissa Parsonson, Secretary of Ardentown