

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, DE 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:36 pm on Monday, November 13, 2022, Alison Wakelin, Town Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sharon Kleban | 13. Peter W. Slattery | 23. Sue Cherrin |
| 2. Joan Fitzgerald | 14. Annie Gutsche | 24. Maureen Gordon |
| 3. Sandie Cooper | 15. Janna Scheflen | 25. Dela Muhlenberg |
| 4. Howard Cooper | 16. Cindy Cohen | 26. Scott Fleuter |
| 5. Mhairi Craig | 17. Joan W-Phibbs | 27. Lori Fleuter |
| 6. Stuart Craig | 18. Bethany Rees | 28. Lee Painter |
| 7. Jill S. Emery | 19. Samantha Smith | 29. Joe Painter |
| 8. Dan Emery | 20. Edmond Biscoffe | 30. Melissa Parsonson |
| 9. Lisa Wilson Riblett | 21. Lucy Faella | 31. Joseph Grippe |
| 10. Shelley Robyn | 22. Mike Faella | 32. Oliver Gutsche |
| 11. Michael Pione | | |
| 12. Steven Cohen | | |

Attendance Via Zoom:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Shari Phalan | 4. Harry Themal | 6. Payj Thommes |
| 2. Anne Lutz | 5. Betty Ann Themal | 7. Drew Hansen |
| 3. Cheryl Regan | | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the September meeting are approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peter Slattery Reporting:

Village of Ardentown Treasurer's Report
November 14th, 2022

Checking Account: Starting Balance \$ 36,295.07
Income \$ 100.00
Expenses \$ 14,164.82
Current Balance \$ 22,230.25
Savings Account: Starting Balance \$ 23,258.52
Income \$ 0.38
Expenses \$ 0.00
Current Balance \$ 23,258.90
Total Checking & Savings \$ 46,698.37

Arden Building & Loan:

Balance: \$17,269.82

Expenses: \$21,248.10 Income: \$100.00

Trash Tech \$5,890.00

Memorial Garden: \$100.00

Town Administration: \$111.55

Fence Repair: \$2300.00

Path Work: \$300.00

Centennial: \$3886.27

Web Conferencing: \$2083.28 (ARPA)

Tree Grant: \$5000.00 (MSA)

Municipal Street Aid \$ 20,377.40

ARPA \$ 93,486.42

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:

We announced an opening in the Registration Committee at the September 2022 meeting. Since that time we have had 2 people show interest in the committee: Mhairi Craig and Ann Lutz.

Proposed Change in Committee Members for Nov 2022 Elections at Town Meeting:

Since Cindy & Melissa are now automatically ex-officio members due to their new Village and Trustee roles, we propose adding both Mhairi Craig and Anne Lutz to the committee - Mhairi to take on Cindy's open two-year position (Sept 2022-2024) and Anne to replace Melissa in her existing position (for one year, until Sept 2023). Cindy and Melissa will remain on the Committee, however, in the ex-officio roles.

The proposed change in committee members were approved at the town meeting and are now comprised of:

PROPOSED Registration Committee Members	2-Year Terms	
Mhairi Craig	Sept 2022-2024	(replacing Cindy Cohen)
Maureen Gordon	Sept 2022-2024	(standing again for another 2-year term)
Anne Lutz	until Sept 2023	(replacing Melissa Parsonson)
<i>Melissa Parsonson</i>	<i>(ex-officio member, as Village Secretary)</i>	Ex-officio effective Sept 2022 town meeting
<i>Cindy Cohen, Chair</i>	<i>(ex-officio member, as Trustees Secretary)</i>	Ex-officio effective June 2022

Chair of the Committee will continue to be Cindy; Melissa will continue as keeper of the Welcome packets; and Mhairi Craig will begin keeping the official list of Ardentown residents.

Recent Resident Changes: Welcome to **Scott & Lori Flueter**, who moved into 1502 The Mall (formerly Jeanine Altoe's home) in October. **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.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Jill Emery Reporting: There will be an audit next year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Drew Hansen reporting: Official voting for the Budget will occur at the February meeting.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Betty Ann Themal Reporting:

The Memorial Garden Committee only has to report that Jean Altoe's ashes will be placed next to her husband, Frank, who died in 2015. A marker is being installed.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

ARCHIVES - Melissa Parsonson reporting:

We are pleased to announce that the Arden Craft Shop Museum will re-opened on Sunday, October 16. Repairs to damage caused by a leak from upstairs in the building revealed the need to completely restore the gallery. This included shoring up structural elements, replacing the floor, and improving the ADA-compliant entry. Now with new carpeting, fresh paint, better lighting and additional storage, we are well-prepared to preserve and show the growing collection. There is a new exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of Ardentown's founding. Regular Museum hours, 1 to 3 p.m. on Sundays and 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. While the Museum may have been closed to visitors, we have been busy. We coordinated a pop-up art installation with the ACRA campers, digitized a remarkable collection of glass slides used by Frank Stevens, added oral histories and transcripts, scanned the original Ardentown lease book, and continued our

“Postcards from the Past” social media posts. Work has started on the website upgrade that will be made possible with ARPA funds. A task force of committee members, board members and expert volunteers met to sharpen the website requirements, outline the structure, and choose and brief a vendor. We expect this work will continue through the fall and winter.

COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE: Joseph Grippe reporting: Thanks to those who participated in helping with the Centennial planning. Original initiatives will be picked up in the future.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Oliver Gutsche reporting: Contact has been made with Smith paving, and the speed bump will be removed within 2 weeks. The Swale on Lorelei will cost \$15,000, which includes 250 feet of concrete swale. It will start where existing swale stops and will go to Appletree Lane. Any future proposals should be presented at the Public Works Committee meeting.

Janna Scheflen reporting for Elaine in reference to the paths and restoration.

STORMWATER COMMITTEE: No updates

PLAYGROUND: Alison Wakelin reporting: There was a new fence installed around the playground by the Ardentown Trustees.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER:

Shari Phalan reporting: Employment - Building Manager’s position has worked well now that it has been divided into two jobs; Sales and Building Manager. Pam Cohen will continue with sales. Rentals include 7 new rentals. ARPA - \$16,000 sewer replacement was granted and installed. Coffee House - The 25th anniversary is in the planning. The October event was very successful, but there are no numbers on this. Art Loop is in November - Nina Silverman-Weeks; December - Arden Artist Collective. “Out and About” magazine is now featuring our venue. Over 80’s Reception is November 13. Chair Donations: 17 chairs are available for the taking; Leftovers will be given to a Church. Classes: Tai Chi - Mon, Weds and Sat. Yoga Arden Bookies have moved to the first Thursday of the month. Free Little Library has gotten good use and feedback has been positive Arden Fiber Arts is canceled until further notice. Awakened Heart is working on lease lease, month-to-month. Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners: 30+ volunteers worked on PPP. Approximate gross was \$8,000 that included vendors, door and raffle. Fundraising will be directed toward improvements in Room 3 for kitchenette sink area and cabinet storage and shed. A thank you party for volunteers will be on November 4. Vandalism happened on 8/4; a refrigerator was left open, whipped cream covered the showcase window and a toilet was clogged. Doorbell is being considered and will be paid for by WSS. A TV was donated and mounted by Awakened Heart. The 100th Year Celebration of the Arden school is coming up in 2024. Further discussion is going on. A new shed for both ACRA and the Buzz is being considered to help alleviate space shortage. Mask Mandate - still following the Governor’s protocols for public events.

TOWN CHAIR - The Comcast agreement was signed. The intern, Maile Gutsche, is moving through her requirements. Maile Gutsche will complete her internship by the February town meeting. Any teenager (13-19 years old) can be an intern by completing specific requirements.

TRUSTEES- Lisa Riblett reporting: On September 29th, we pulled out overgrowth on the Station Path. Annie Gutsche reporting: There will be a walk thru on December 4th or 5th on how to manage common grounds. The Candlelight water leak has been fixed. The Candlelight parking lot was re-paved. New Castle County may reassess properties randomly. If you get a re-assessment bill, give the bill to Cindy Cohen, so it can be paid for by the village. Stuart Craig reporting: No additions.

ELECTIONS: Community Planning (2) - Motion to approve Dehla Mulenberg & Joe Grippe. The motion was approved by all in attendance.

Ardentown Village Chair - Motion to Nominate Joseph Grippe for Ardentown Village Chair. The motion was approved by all in attendance.

Registration (2) - Mhairi Craig 2022 - 2024 & Ann Lutz is to finish out Melissa Parsonson's term until 2023.
Motion was approved by all in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS: 100th anniversary Ardentown sign is installed at the corner of Sconset and Harvey. (donated by Steve & Cindy Cohen). Proposal to decrease the speed limit to 10 mph. The Community Planning Committee will discuss it at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The Village of Arden reached out in reference to Exercise stations being placed around the three villages. Information given to Joseph Grippe as chair of Community Planning.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Parsonson
Ardentown Secretary