

# Civic Committee Meeting Minutes

## Monday, September 14, 2009

### ***Present:***

Committee Members: Sue Rothrock, Dale Brumbaugh, Rodney Jester, Ann Schmittinger

Trustees: Connee McKinney, Mike Curtis

Town Chair: Steven Threefoot

Guests: Shelley Robyn, Denis O'Regan, Betty O'Regan, Eric Walker

Elaine Hickey (Secretary, Village of Arden)

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sue Rothrock at 7:36 PM.

### ***Community Garden Group***

Shelley Robyn attended the meeting to report on the Community Garden. The Motion for the Community Garden, which was approved at the January 2009 Town Meeting, stated that the project would be reviewed at the end of the 2009 growing season by the Civic, Community Planning, and Buzz Ware Village Center committees. Shelley reported that the Community Garden project has been successful. There was no vandalism, and the growers were able to rely mainly on frequent rainfall and water gathered in the rain barrels for their watering. They used very little BWVC water. Shelley is now prepared to make another Motion at the September Town Meeting asking for continued use of the space. Steven asked if there was enough space to accommodate all who wished to use it. Shelley said there is currently space available and if necessary they could even prepare the mulched area, where a swing set currently sits.

All the gardeners are required to clean up their area at the end of their growing season. The new Motion will include a statement that the Community Garden Group will continue to hold money aside incase interest dwindles and they need to restore the space back to its original condition. Steven mentioned that perhaps the group should have a signed agreement with the Village for their use of that part of the Green for the Community Garden and that the space will be restored when no longer used for the garden.

### ***1911 Orleans Rain Water Issue***

Denis O'Regan introduced Eric Walker who shares ownership of the leasehold at 1911 Orleans with the O'Regans. Denis, Betty and Eric came to this meeting to ask for Civic's assistance in curtailing the flow of water onto that leasehold during heavy rainfall. Denis had brought up the problem with Civic 1 ½ years ago but there was no money in the budget to help at that time. Eric and Denis put in a French drain but it is unable to handle the large amount of water that runs unto the property. Some of the water is originating from the street, however a substantial amount is coming from the right of way area to the neighboring leasehold. Denis showed the Committee a drawing of where he measured with a six foot level and observed the water coming in. During heavy rain, water from the neighboring property does not get over an existing crown in the road. The gutter is not taking all of the street's rainwater. The right of way at the property line, between the neighboring Collins and O'Regan leaseholds, has accumulating water which runs onto the O'Regan property. Denis feels it is the Village's responsibility to get the leaseholder's water runoff into the Village storm system. His recommendation is to put a berm at the neighbor's driveway and a curb at the street.

Sue said she and another committee member has observed the situation several times during a heavy rainfall. They observed that the majority of the storm water was running down the gutter on the other side of the street. This is why the committee voted down putting a berm along 1911 Orleans in November and In the spring, Sue saw observed a tremendous amount of water coming from the neighboring property onto the O'Regan property. She showed the problem to the

road contractor who said that putting a barrier at the spot where the water came from the neighbors would not work and would push the water onto the property further down Orleans. She felt that it should not be the Town's responsibility to remediate the neighbor's drainage problem and asked the Trustees to look at it in case the problem was being caused by the leaseholder. The Trustee's Connie's observation was that there was not a significant amount of water from the neighboring property the leaseholder had done a lot to remediate the runoff and it was not a problem caused by the leaseholder. They stated that the water problem had existed for over forty years and the house at 1911 once was a carport. Also, Sue was very stated that she was concerned about setting a precedent of putting in a berm where there was not tremendous water coming from the street. The committee agreed. Rodney Jester suggested putting in a swale to take the water from that side of the street over to the gutter on the other side of the street, and most importantly, not to cause problems somewhere else by the way we mitigate this current problem. Sue will get an estimate for putting in a swale.

### ***Water Runoff from the Gild Hall area into The Grove - Town Chair, Steven Threefoot***

During heavy rainfall water is running off the street and the Gild Hall parking lot into the Grove and washing mud onto the Tanzer and Bean leaseholds. The water from the pipe at the overflow parking area drain shoots out into a concrete area that is split and the dirt beneath is eroded. The Gild Hall parking lot needs a drain because additional water is coming into it from The Highway.

The plan is to put in a storm drain; cutting the pipe that comes from the overflow parking lot drain at the edge of the Gild Hall parking lot where it goes down into the Grove and putting in a storm drain that has a pipe that goes underground into a storm drain at the bottom of the hill. Sue showed a drawing of what will be done. She is not sure how much it will cost and will email the Committee when she gets the bid. Even though most of the water causing the problem is Town water, the Arden Club has committed \$5,000.00 towards the cost.

The Tanzers had Damon dig the dirt out of the culvert that runs along their driveway in order to help keep the mud off their leasehold and has asked the Club to pay for it. Putting in the new drainage system should solve the problem of mud washing into the culvert. The Club will reseed The Grove once the runoff problem is solved.

***Spring House Roof*** – New metal roof is on and looks great.

### ***Grants***

Arden will not receive Municipal Street Aid this year and probably not again next year. However Steven has asked our State Congress reps, Bryon Short and Cathy Cloutier, about getting Community Transportation Funds this year. They are giving us \$14,480.00.

The Committee had approved putting in a storm drain in front of Bonnie Phillips' leasehold but Sue did not go forward with having it done right away because she knew the Gild Hall/Grove water runoff problem was going to be a big issue and was concerned that there would not be enough funds. We will use the Community Transportation Funds to fix the Gild Hall/Grove water problem which may also take care of the water issues in front of the Phillips' leasehold.

### ***Trash & Recycling Pick-up***

Our contract with Waste Management states that all households are entitled to a large green Waste Management trash dumpster. Residents just have to call Waste Management and it will be delivered to them. Any type of yard waste or trash bag can be used for yard waste and there is no limit on the number of bags that can be put out for pick-up.

Denise Denny of Delaware Solid Waste Authority assured Sue that she would help Arden with their annual electronics recycling program.

***Request for Private Sleepover on Arden Green***

Sue received a request for permission to hold a private children's campout and sleepover on the Arden Green. Civic does allow ACRA to do this for their Adventure Games program. The Committee feels there are too many liability issues with granting private overnight usage and does not want to set a precedent.

***Request for Speed Bump***

Someone on Lower Lane has requested a speed bump. There are no funds for it this year. The request will go in the file for next year when Civic can then decide to approve or disapprove the request.

***\$100.00 Donation***

Sue thanked fellow Civic Committee member Rodney Jester for donating \$100.00 to the Civic Committee for purchasing a tree. Sue suggested the tree be planted in front of the BWVC to replace the two trees that recently came down.

***Survey for Field Theater and Sherwood Green***

A survey will be done on the Field Theater and the edge of the Sherwood Green behind the Phillips' leasehold. Boundaries will be marked so that we can start maintaining those areas. The town was given Sue has picket fencing that can be put along the boundaries.

Rodney Jester will answer the Civic Committee phone while Sue is out of town 9/20-30.

Sue announced that she will be leaving the Civic Committee and is not sure if she will be able to remain on the Committee until the March elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hickey  
Secretary, Village of Arden