

# Arden Advisory Committee Retreat – 7 November 2005 (uncorrected)

Present: Mike Curtis, Williard Glenn, Aaron Hamburger (8:30 p.m.), Lisa Mullinax, Sue Rothrock, Danny Schweers, Sally Sharpe, Steven Threefoot, Elizabeth Varley, Cecilia Vore, Larry Walker,

Elizabeth Varley called the meeting together at 7:50 p.m. with desserts and refreshments from the chair and new chairs courtesy of the BWVC Committee.

## **POLICY FOR PUBLIC TREES NEAR LEASEHOLDS**

The Committee discussed care of trees in Village, how we decide which ones are to come down, who is to do the work, what our policy should be about trees near leaseholds, should they be inspected regularly, where money to take down trees should come from, whether set-backs of houses from woods should be increased, whether money should be set aside each year toward a survey to take place every five years, etc. Steven Threefoot said he will work with Civic Committee and Forest Sub-Committee to formulate a policy to move forward.

## **FOREST COMMITTEE FORMALIZATION**

Forest Sub-Committee Chair Sally Sharpe says that there is lots yet to be done. Some things are being done, already in the works, that Woods Sub-Committee is just discovering and needs to fit in with. Steven has written a letter to Sunset Farms residents about dumping in Woods. Sally has cleaned up debris at lower end of Hillside Road. Discussion ensued about making this sub-committee a full committee independent of the Civic Committee and about how much money should be in its budget in the future, regardless of its status as a committee or sub-committee.

## **LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DECOMMISSIONING**

Cecilia Vore contends that this committee has not fulfilled its mission and has not been meeting regularly recently. She suggests that the Advisory Chair serve as parliamentarian, that a summary of approved motions by the Town Assembly could be compiled by a committee appointed to that task and that, as we move forward, that the Secretary keep track on future policies and policy motions as brought before the Town Assembly. In addition, the Advisory Chair could keep an annual checklist of what Village tasks need to be done when. Also, the Advisory Chair would gather the policies and procedures from each committee chair to give to Secretary, who would make them available to the public. Elizabeth Varley, current Advisory Chair, agreed to talk to members of the Legislative Reference Committee about making a motion for their own demise at the January Town Meeting.

## **ANNUAL NCC LEVERAGE SERVICE APPLICATION (REVIEW ITEMS ON APPLICATION)**

Steven Threefoot noted that this is the time of year in which we decide which services we want New Castle County Government to provide: police, fire, ambulance, rescue, 911 service, zoning, regulation enforcement, building inspection, recreation programs, low-income housing, drainage, parks, etc... This would be for July 2006-July 2007. At the moment, Recreation, storm drains, and parks are omitted and we get a reduction in our County taxes. This is an appropriate time to consider our relation to New Castle County in regard to land use regulation and zoning. We have some exemptions as a village and could pursue others. Aaron Hamburger noted that the Hometown Overlay is another possible option we have not explored. Cecilia, Steven and Elizabeth will pursue this issue.

## **THE BUDGETING PROCESS**

The current Budget Chair, Tom Franz, is moving out of Arden. Steven wants to somehow encourage committees to use the budget process to form each year's budget request. Cecilia suggests that the Budget Committee work with each Committee to form the budget request. Aaron says Budget Committee needs to concentrate on Civic, BWVC and Administrative line items and, most importantly, is to research what County and School taxes will be. Some believe work of the committee could be done by one person, not the five currently on committee. Suggestion is made to reduce membership to three. Number is in the Act to Reincorporate, which would require action by the State Legislature, a somewhat daunting process. Grants may be part of this Committee's work or of a separate person.

## **GRANT APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

Do we need a grant coordinator for the Village? Sue Rothrock suggests that grant applications should be a responsibility taken on by Community Planning. Elizabeth will ask co-chairs of Community Planning if they are willing to take this on. Steven says we need some central clearinghouse for grants, especially since the Village cannot officially take on any contract unless it is signed by the Chair of the Town Assembly and witnessed by the Village Secretary.

## **TWO ITEMS NOT DISCUSSED**

On the agenda, but not discussed, was:

Improvement in public safety / reduction of vandalism

Respectfully submitted,  
Danny Schweers, Secretary