

Arden Advisory Committee Meeting, 6 March 2006

Present: Terry Colgan (Community Planning), Mike Curtis (Trustee), Christine Demsey (Audit), Aaron Hamburger (Trustee), Connee McKinney (Trustee), Denis O'Regan (Safety), Danny Schweers (Secretary), Sally Sharpe (Forest), Steven Threefoot (Town Assembly Chair), Elizabeth Varley (Advisory), Cecilia Vore (Registration), Larry Walker (Playground)

Elizabeth called the meeting together at 7:39 p.m.

TOWN CHAIR: Steven said discussions continue on State bill that would change all municipal elections. The Delaware League of Local Governments will be offering an alternative. Original legislation was prescriptive including mandated voting machines, head of election commission could not speak publicly, etc.

United Water and T-Mobile are still negotiating. We are represented by United Water, with whom we already have an agreement.

Steve Cohen represented us at the Governor's Pandemic Conference and has given us a report.

Steven and Danny reported on a breakfast about growth.

TRUSTEES: Aaron reported that Trustees anticipate discussing the multiple domicile initiative. Talked about having public meetings, one before summer.

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Tuesday, March 14, meeting.

SAFETY: Denis O'Regan needs key to Spring House, where signs are kept; some signs are down and need to be replaced. Steven noted that handicapped sign letter needs to go to Arden Craft Shop Museum, Arden Club, and Steak Shop.

REGISTRATION: Community Planning needs one more candidate, BWVC needs two more (could not be here tonight but is seeking candidates), Budget has seven openings (some for 1-year terms because Tom Frantz and Larry Strange have both resigned). Cecilia notes that some recent Budget Committees have been run just by one person, so it is curious that five members are required by the Act to Reincorporate. Three would do.

Should we ask the State Legislature to amend the Act? Connee will call three people.

PLAYGROUND: Usual, except that the price of wood has gone up, so we are asking \$15 from the Contingency Fund.

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Terry Colgan reported that committee agreed to work with the Trustees but want a comprehensive plan rather than the piece-meal approach to multi-family domiciles favored by the Trustees. **QUESTION:** How far back do our land-rent records go concerning extra domiciles? 1974, when Assessors instituted multiple domicile factors. Committee is looking at unoccupied households. Connee offered to do research if village will provide her with a maid. Also is looking at setting up a yard-work network, matching those who need help with those who can provide it.

FOREST - Sally reported that Sue is working with tree maintenance person. Is looking at policy concerning Sherwood Forest, especially wood that would be better removed. Cecilia suggests that major policy changes be presented at one meeting and voted on at the next. Most think cut wood is like all debris and can be removed. Committee likes idea of Sherwood Forest remaining a forest and not a park. Notes that encroachment into Sherwood Forest is rampant; some effective border is needed. Steven noted that this issue is exactly why the Forest Sub-committee was created.

CIVIC - Sue reported they will have 2nd reading of Woods Closure. Want to have an April 22 electronic recycling day, 8-1 at BWVC. Bulk Trash April 29. Wood cleanup is joint effort with Community Planning and Forest Sub-committee, on May 6. Freezers, refrigerators and beds are large items; washing machines and some mattresses will often be taken. Propane tanks, dehumidifiers, refrigerators cannot be taken unless they are professionally emptied. Sue went through Sherwood Forest with urban forester and then tree maintenance people. Question about what trees need to be cared for. Who decides? Some forests depend on word of urban forester; if they decide trees should come down, then tree comes down at expense of person requesting the action. Another possible change is policy is to get good surveys from those doing construction next to woods or selling property next to woods. Another possible change is to ask for a bond on construction next to woods. Trustees may put in language in their construction permits to help with woods problem.

AUDIT - Christine says in April committee will get audit in mail and begin looking it over.

BUZZ WARE - No rep. present. May say something about their budget and potential tenants.

BUDGET - No rep. present. At March meeting, Budget Committee usually present projected 3-year budget so Assessors can do their work. This can be done at the end of April and still satisfy Assessors' needs. Aaron notes that entire village benefits from this projection. Steven will get County and School estimated taxes for coming year. Elizabeth asks that one of the first acts of the new Budget Committee set up a typical year calendar.

COOKIES - Playground Committee has cookie duties at March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Danny N. Schweers, Secretary