

Arden Advisory Committee Meeting, 5 September 2006

Present: Terry Colgan, Mike Curtis, Christine Demsey, Aaron Hamburger, Shelley Robyn, Sue Rothrock, Danny Schweers, Steven Threefoot, Elizabeth Varley, Cecilia Vore, and Larry Walker.

Elizabeth Varley called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

POLICING OF ARDEN CLUB LEASEHOLD: While the Safety Committee was not represented at this meeting, it was reported that there is concern with after-hours use of the Arden Club parking lot and the biergarten for drug deals and partying.

PROTOCOL FOR OVER-BUDGET ITEMS: There was a discussion of the Contingency Fund, that the current fiscal year's amount, \$2,000, is low. This amount has remained the same for many years, though labor and materials have increased. For example, when the large increase in trash removal costs was initially considered, the estimated cost overrun was more than \$4,000 more than budgeted, more than could be met by the Contingency Fund. Perhaps a special referendum would have been needed to meet the shortfall, but any referendum is costly and problematic. The Advisory Committee suggested to the Budget Committee that the Contingency Fund be increased to \$3,000 for the coming year and perhaps higher in succeeding years.

BUDGET FOR 2007-2008: The budget for 2007-2008 is ready to go to referendum.

MULTIPLE DOMICILES: A referendum on multiple domiciles was discussed, as proposed by the Community Planning Committee and the Trustees. If implemented, this proposal would legalize existing multiple domiciles in Arden and permit the creation of new multiple domiciles. It was agreed that the proposed referendum will be discussed early in the Town Meeting, but after nominations are taken for Assessors. The full text of the proposed referendum will be included in the minutes to be mailed out next week.

FLOOD INSURANCE: Will be discussed at Town Meeting says Steven Threefoot.

FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS WITH COMCAST AND VERIZON. Verizon expects to have video available by end of year; both Verizon and Comcast will soon have video contracts ready to sign. Discussion ensued, including the opinion that user fees are equivalent to a tax.

TRASH AGREEMENT. This has been signed with Waste Management, Inc. and, because trash collection has been reduced to once a week, the increase in cost is minimal.

AGENDA: Committee reports will be in reverse order, and, since they forgot last time, Registration Committee will bring the cookies.

FALL REFERENDUM, ASSESSOR ELECTIONS. The Fall Budget Referendum and Election of Assessors will take place on 11/1 or 11/2 (Wednesday or Thursday). Ballots should go out October 10 (October 25 at latest). Advisory Committee is responsible for finding 14 nominees for Assessor.

RIGHT OF WAY PROBLEMS: Right of way issues (such as foliage blocking traffic sight-lines) are taken care of by Civic but are really Safety issues. Advisory Committee recommends that Civic and Safety Committees settle the issue between them.

SURVEY OF VILLAGE BORDERS: The border between Arden and its neighbors (in particular, the line between Arden and Ardentown near Harvey Road, where two trees on the boundary need attention) is not well marked. Advisory Committee recommends Arden and its neighbors try to come to agreement on question before spending money on expensive surveys.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Unable to attend, Willard Glenn left word that the BWVC Committee will report on the following at the next Town Meeting: their budget, roof repair estimates, BWVC participation in the Arden Fair, and the good news that the YMCA has returned as a tenant.

The meeting ending at about 9:23 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Danny N. Schweers, Secretary