

Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, January 4, 2010

Attendees: Bill Theis, Mike Curtis, Connee McKinney, Julia McNeil, Lisa Mullinax, Cecilia Vore, Jeffrey Politis, Cookie Ohlson, Steven Threefoot, Larry Walker, Elizabeth Varley, David Michelson, Elaine Hickey

Bill Theis, Advisory Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Bill announced that he would need all committee member nominations by the close of the meeting. Cecilia reminded everyone to make sure that all their nominees are truly willing to serve and that committee chairs may also want to consider asking long standing committee members to step down so that new people will have a better chance of being elected.

Trustees:

Connee McKinney - A new requirement for lease transfer is that leaseholds must be hooked up to the sewer.

Mike Curtis – Trustees will be suggesting that all boundary surveys, done either at the time of lease transfer or for new construction, install stakes that can be easily found in the future. This way surveys may not have to be repeated so often because the previous survey stakes can't be found. There are a couple of options, such as markers in cement that appear above the ground or markers containing metal that can easily be found with a metal detector.

Comments:

- 1) The Trustees need to make it very clear in their documentation exactly what is required.
- 2) Perhaps the Trust should bear the financial responsibility of the survey costs and permanently document it so that surveys don't ever have to be repeated.

Town Chair: Steven Threefoot

A Municipal Street Aid audit will soon be performed by an accounting firm contracted by the State. Since this is the year of transition of Trust monetary responsibilities over to the Town and the State's fiscal year running July – June, it will involve twice the amount of work. David will have to show both the Trust and the Town books.

The State is still trying to decide how to administer the Dept. of Energy grants.

BWVC will be telling the Assembly about the booking of a new long term rental.

All Committees need to document any procedures they have and send copies to the Town Office via either the Chair or the Secretary.

Treasurer: David Michelson – Nothing to report.

Forest Committee: Elizabeth Varley

Names of the nominees for the committee are: Joad Kazan, Naomi Clark, Alan Burslem, Elizabeth Varley.

Playground Committee: Larry Walker

Inspection found nothing out of the ordinary.

Registration Committee: Cecilia Vore

Absentee Voting - Steven will announce that the Registration Committee is addressing the purpose of the Motion for absentee voting that Marianne Cinaglia made at the September Town Meeting and that we are going to leave it on the table and let it lapse. Cecilia will discuss the methodology and background for absentee voting, and whether or not to present it as a Motion or an Ordinance. If it is handled as an Ordinance, the first reading will be at the March Town Meeting and the third reading will be at the September Town Meeting. By the January 2011 Town Meeting, when nominations are made, everyone would know about the process for Absentee Voting.

The current list of Committee Members is on the website in case Committee Chairs need to know whose terms are up. Cecilia will send the Committee Chairs a list of the new residents in case they would like to use it for recruiting purposes.

Safety Committee: No report

Due to a recent incident, Larry Walker pointed out that residents should call 911 right away when they encounter a person doing something wrong and not to personally confront that person.

Archives Committee: Lisa Mullinax

The two Committee members whose terms are up are willing to run again. One will continue to participate even if not elected. Lisa also has other names she would like to nominate.

The Town Chair asked if a report from the Corporation could be presented to the Town Assembly.

Audit Committee: Cookie Ohlson

The Town audit will be done on Jan. 13 at 4:30. Cookie cannot attend the next Town Meeting but will give her report to someone else to present.

Budget Committee: Jeffrey Politis

Should the nominations for Treasurer come from the Budget Committee? The Town Chair replied that the committee cannot be the sole source of nominations. Discussion followed regarding whether it is appropriate for the committee to endorse candidates for the Treasurer position. Perhaps interviewing candidates and preparing a slate of the qualified candidates, which is a similar process used when electing a new Trustee, would be an appropriate method. The position should be moved into an ordinance, established as we have with other committees, and codified at a high level. Community Planning and Registration should get together to determine how to do this. If we do this after March we will have a 2-year window of experience from which to gather valuable job description information.

Buzz Ware Village Center : No report

Civic Committee: No report

The Town Chair announced that Civic Committee Chair Sue Rothrock is resigning, and asked the meeting attendees to try to think of suitable candidates for the committee. The Chair would have to be someone who could meet with contractors during the day when necessary.

Community Planning Committee : No report

Discussion:

Town Chair asked that anyone planning on making a Motion during Town Meeting to please send it ahead of time to the Town Secretary so that it could be printed up and copies made available at the door.

Cookie Ohlson expressed concern about the condition in which BWVC and Gild Hall overflow parking is leaving the Sherwood Green. Civic, Community Planning, and the Arden Club have looked into improving the situation but the cost of \$100,000 is prohibitive at this time.

Larry Walker asked if there were going to be nominations for an Administrator for the Schroeder Fund. Steven replied that this will not be done in time for the March election. David is in the process of defining the financial side before dealing with the administrative side. The recommendation was to use only the interest. The interest rates have not allowed for substantial growth at this time. This was just a recommendation and we could spend any amount we wish, however it has been restricted by the Village not to be spent down. The Fund is to be used for woods, forests and common areas. Applications for the funds could be presented before the Town Assembly for public comment.

Forest Committee will provide refreshments for the next Advisory Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hickey
Secretary, Village of Arden