

Community Planning Committee
Minutes, 15 September 2010

Present: Committee members Cynthia Dewick, Ron Meick, Danny Schweers, and Ray Seigfried. Sally Sharpe was absent. Ruth Bean and Barbara Henry, of the Memorial Garden Sub-Committee, attended the first part of the meeting.

Ray Seigfried, chair, called this meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. in Room 2 of the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Repair of Memorial Garden Wall

Recently, a car going east on Harvey Road had stopped, waiting to turn left onto The Sweep. Two young men in separate cars came speeding up behind. One managed to stop but the other young man (a high-school honor student!), seeing nowhere else to go, swerved right, into the eastern-most end of the rock wall surrounding the Grubb Family graveyard. There were no bodily injuries. The father of the young man wants to pay for the repair himself rather than involve his insurance company and face years of increased premiums.

Ruth Bean has three bids to repair the wall, ranging from \$1,800 to \$6,240. Cynthia Dewick will review the bids, check contactor credentials, and make a recommendation.

Vacant Houses Not in Compliance with County Code

The Community Planning Committee does not report County land-use code violations since individual residents can themselves. That is, residents should not complain to our committee, they should complain directly to New Castle County. At this meeting, we learned that someone had complained about the house at 2121 Meadow Lane, which has been vacant for 15 years or so. The county has made an inspection and issued violations.

Long-Vacant Houses

Ray Seigfried showed the draft of a letter to be sent to owners of long-vacant houses, informing them that the Village of Arden is considering a Vacant Housing Ordinance and explaining why. The letter would be from the Trustees of the Village and this committee. Hopefully it will prompt these owners to make a change.

Cynthia Dewick suggested that we talk to an expert about vacant housing ordinances before recommending action to the Town Assembly.

Request for Changes in County Land-Use Codes

The Villages of Ardentown and Ardencroft will join Arden in requesting exemption from New Castle County from Section PM 302.8.6 (so that vehicles may be parked on unpaved surfaces) and requesting that tree branches be exempted from Section PM 302.11 (which currently only exempts stacked

firewood).

Cookies and Juice

Our committee is responsible for refreshments at the next town meeting, on Monday, September 27.

Next Meeting, Adjournment

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. at The Buzz. This meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. (that is, with the minute hand on the House Wren).

Respectively submitted,

Danny Schweers, Committee Secretary