

Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (corrected)
Monday, March 22, 2004
Gild Hall – Arden, Delaware

Sixty-two residents were in attendance, as shown below. Six of these voted and had to leave before any reports were made, so that attendance was actually normal for the business portion of the meeting, 56 people. Nine people at this meeting were not at the last meeting but 25 people were not at this meeting who were at the last. In recent years, attendance at March meetings was 101 in 2003 (including early voting), 55 in 2002, 51 in 2001, 63 in 2000, 74 in 1999, 44 in 1998, 66 in 1997, and 55 in 1996.

Lew Aumack	Lynda Kolski	Johanne Schroeder
Beverly A. Barnett	Mary L. Marconi	Danny Schweers
Ruth Bean	Connee Wright McKinney	Sally Sharpe
Lou Bean	Lisa Mullinax	Sadie Somerville
Steve Blades	Amy Mullins	Steve Tanzer
Jennifer Borders	Stephen Mullins	Debbie Theis*
Walter Borders	Denis O'Regan	William Theis*
Marianne Cinaglia	Helen "Cookie" Ohlson	Steven Threefoot
Jeanne Corman	Ron Ozer	Kate Threefoot
Alton Dahl	Ruth Panella	Elizabeth Varley
John Demsey	Pamela Pearson	Cecilia Vore
Dorinda Dove	Roberta Perkins	Larry C. Walker
Carl Falco	Liz Resko (and Ms. Mary, a languorous dog)	Laura Wallace
Phil Fisher	Pete A. Renzetti	Jan Westerhouse
Tom Frantz	Hugh Roberts	Tom Wheeler
Williard S. Glenn	Marjorie Roberts	and a person with a signature that looks like Sand J Pal???
Aaron Hamburger	Ed Rohrbach	
Sarah S. Hamburger	Richard Rothrock	
Barbara Henry	Susan Rothrock	<i>*Seen at meeting</i>
Heidi Hoegger	Kate Sayer	
Randall Hoopes	Marvin Sayer	
Allan Kleban	Alex Scala	
June Kleban		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Steven Threefoot called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of allowing qualified residents to vote for committee members and village officers.

2. VOTING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Unlike last year, when nearly fifty people showed for early voting, this year only six people came who otherwise could not attend the business portion of the meeting. At 7:15 p.m., the meeting was temporarily adjourned.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called back to order at 7:37 p.m. and the Registration Committee handed out ballots, noting that people could vote throughout the meeting. After ten minutes of voting, Steven asked for any corrections to the minutes. There being none, the minutes as mailed were accepted unanimously.

4. FROM THE CHAIR Steven Threefoot noted the following:

Jim Beyer, Environmental Specialist for FAA, has announced an April 15 meeting for Environmental impact for extension of runway at Philadelphia Airport. Also, the Village has received notes from Bob Weiner and Tom Carper about the Airport expansion.

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority keeps sending flyers to residents as though we do not have recycling. We do and it's free.

The Institute for Public Education is offering a Workshop on Land Development Administration.

March is American Red Cross month.

The chairs of the three villages—Bob Pollock (Ardencroft), Oliver Gutsche (Arden-town) and Steven Threefoot (Arden), met with WilMapCo, a federally-funded agency that plans for long-term traffic and transportation issues. We voiced concerns of the three villages. One suggestion was a shuttle bus to shopping centers through Arden.

Steven Threefoot and Danny Schweers met with Delaware's U.S. Congressional Delegation on March 9 with other members of the Delaware League of Local Governments. Senator Biden, who hosted the event, and Senator Carper listened to the concerns of local governments throughout the state, including our problems with the Philadelphia Airport expansion. Afterwards, Kevin Smith, from Biden's office, escorted our representatives on a short tour of the U.S. Capitol building, which included observing a vote on the Senate floor by 98 of the 100 U.S. Senators.

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority is under Sunset Review. Recycling is a big deal. The raising of the level of the dump has been put on hold pending review. 70-80% of the waste stream could be recycled, but that is a distant goal at the moment.

We received a letter from Delaware Attorney General Jane Brady who wrote, "Thank you for providing me with a copy of the resolution approved by the members of the Village Assembly opposing certain provisions of the Patriot Act. I appreciate hearing from you, and thank you for sharing the views of the Village Assembly with me."

5. NEW AND DEPARTED RESIDENTS

Steven asked if any new residents were present. He then recognized Jean Brachman, who lived here for over fifty years and one of the founders of the Arden Archives and of ACRA (the Arden Community Recreation Association), and Dee Southwell, who grew up in Arden, both of whom passed away in the past two months. Also, Bernie Kleban, another long-time resident, has moved out of the village into a care facility.

6. HARVEY ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING COMMITTEE

Lynda Kolski had nothing to report except to say that DelDOT is working on the design for improvements to Harvey Road. Ruth Bean rose to make a motion to re-examine having a gateway in Arden. We now know that Ardentown and Ardencroft chose the gateway design Arden liked most, the one designed by Rick Rothrock. Seconded by Bev Barnett. Steven asked that the motion be tabled until next meeting. Ruth Panella seconded. Bev asks about timing concerns with a postponement, relative to DelDOT's work. Lynda Kolski said there were no timing issue. Aaron Hamburger noted that, for a body to rescind a vote, it takes a 2/3 vote to rescind OR a simple majority if the motion is made well in advance. Hearing this, Ruth Bean accepted the tabling.

7. AVERY TASK FORCE Lynda Kolski reported the following:

Six weeks ago tonight, at our special town meeting, the village approved holding the special referendum to purchase the Avery property. Ballots were mailed the following week and, on March 11, residents of the Village of Arden overwhelmingly approved the

referendum to purchase the Avery property by an extraordinary vote of 260-24. Over 80 percent of residents returned ballots, making voter participation one of the highest in any Arden referendum. What an incredible outcome after the more than eight years that the Task Force has been focusing on this project!

However, our work isn't done yet. As we plan for settlement, the Task Force will continue to see the project through to its successful conclusion. We will handle and be responsible for aspects of the project, including environmental or other types of testing, annexing the land and communicating with Marsha Avery and our attorney, Lisa Goodman, on these details. Steven Threefoot, as chair of the village assembly, and the person authorized to sign village contracts, will handle the specific details of the actual settlement and related papers and deal with our settlement attorney, Dan Johnson, for that purpose.

The Task Force has hired Action Environmental Service to conduct a Phase I environmental study on the property as advised by our attorney. While we certainly don't expect to find any problems, this study will assess any potential environmental liability as a protection for both the village and our lender, the Arden Building and Loan Association, from what could potentially be very costly environmental hazard remediation. We expect the results from this study in the next few weeks.

We are in the process of notifying donors who pledged a donation, that we would like as much cash on hand as possible prior to settlement to reduce the amount of the loan necessary to complete the purchase. Having spoken to the donors with the largest outstanding pledges, such as Ardentown and Ardencroft, the anonymous donor who pledged \$25,000, and a few other individuals, we do expect that most of those pledges will be honored before settlement. Right now, if most pledges are paid before settlement, and barring any unforeseen problems, we anticipate the loan amount will be \$160,000-165,000. As donations continue to come in, and we have received a few since the referendum was passed, and if expenses meet or are under our estimate, the loan amount could be lower.

The Dick and Dorsey Duck Race, held on March 13, was a great success and a lot of fun. This event raised more than \$2,500 for the Avery project. A big thank you goes to both Dick and Dorsey for coming up with the idea and coordinating it. Pete Renzetti's duck was the first of 250 brightly colored ducks to cross the line. We're sure that the fact that he was one of two duck pole men, giving wayward ducks that got stuck in rocks a push, had nothing to do with his duck taking the lead. A second duck race was held and Lila Kleban's duck beat 25 other ducks to finish first.

We are in the process of applying to get the Avery property removed from the county tax rolls once it is purchased by Arden. Obviously we want to do this as soon as possible to avoid any county taxes on it. After settlement, probably at the June town meeting, the Task Force will introduce a resolution for town assembly approval to annex the land into Arden.

Settlement is scheduled for April 30. In just 40 days, the property that we have referred to as the Avery property for the last eight years will finally, officially, be Arden property.

Following the report of the Avery Task Force, Steven Threefoot suggests that the Civic Committee be responsible for the addition. Bev Barnett, a Task Force member, suggests that the Civic Committee become involved on the environmental report. Lynda says report will be completed by the environmental services company we have hired. Alton Dahl wonders if the property can be included in Spring Cleanup. Lynda says we can ask Marsha Avery for permission to clean the property. Marianne Cinaglia asked that Lynda's eight years of work be recognized. Applause. Rick Rothrock suggests that, in the spirit of progress, we refer it to the new acquisition as Sherwood Woods. Ruth Panella noted that Lila Kleban gave half her winnings in the second Duck Race to the Sherwood Trust.

8. CLAYMONT RENAISSANCE

Steven Threefoot noted that Jane Frantz has stepped down as our representative after 18 months of diligent, thoughtful work that prompted many positive comments of her involvement. Working with Ardentown and Ardencroft, it has been agreed that Eva Abbott, a new resident in Ardencroft, will begin attending the meetings representing all the Ardens.

9. TRUSTEES—Marianne Cinaglia made the following report.

The Buckingham Greene trial in the Court of Chancery began on March 8 and evidence was heard March 8 through the 10. Our lawyer, Roger Akin, and our expert witness, Charles Olmsted, did exemplary jobs of presenting the evidence for the Plaintiffs (the Trustees of Arden). After hearing the evidence, Judge Noble decided to visit the sites in question personally. He will be accompanied by the three lawyers representing the Trustees, the Buckingham Greene LLC and the Buckingham Greene Maintenance Corporation. We have not heard of the date of the visit. A number of Village residents were in attendance for the trial. The Trustees greatly appreciate their support.

Land rent is being received by our Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Varley. Due date for land rent is March 25.

Marianne noted that a number of residents were in attendance. Alton Dahl rose to thank thank Toby, Marianne Cinaglia, and Beverly Barnett for testifying.

Aaron Hamburger commented on the financial reports included here. He pointed out that we close the books on March 25 and noted that the bottom of report on income and expenses makes it look as though we have a huge surplus of income over expenses but, no, we do not. That amount includes all of the Sherwood Trust donations. He also noted that Trustee administration is over budget in connection with legal bills on Buckingham Greene after being under budget last year. One of the parties has already settled out of court. The report of the Trustees was accepted unanimously.

Balance Sheet as of March 20, 2004

	<u>Mar 20, 04</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
ARDEN BUILDING & LOAN - TRUSTEE	120,048.44
TRUSTEES - WILMINGTON TRUST	126,897.22
VANGUARD	
FUND 30	101,264.49
FUND 33	98,039.47
MSA - FUND 50	51,318.78
Total VANGUARD	<u>250,622.74</u>
Total Checking/Savings	497,568.40
Accounts Receivable	
LAND RENT RECEIVABLE	-196,515.67
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-196,515.67</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>301,052.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	301,052.73

Trustees of Arden Quarterly Report,
 April 1, 2003 through March 20, 2004

	<u>Apr 1, '03 - Mar 20, 04</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
DONATIONS	77,955.00	
GRANTS	7,673.84	
INTEREST-BANK	69.52	
INVESTMENT INCOME	8,873.99	5,000.00
LAND RENT	376,932.85	376,000.00
LAND RENT FINANCE CHARGE	1,277.75	
MEADOW LANE ACCESS	661.96	
MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS	2,775.00	
RIGHTS-OF-WAY	15,447.86	
Uncategorized Income	23,024.19	40,000.00
Total Income	<u>514,691.96</u>	<u>421,000.00</u>
Expense		
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	125.34	300.00
ARCHIVES	2,968.14	3,600.00
AVERY TASK FORCE	2,037.00	2,000.00
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	0.00	50.00
BuzzWareVC COMMITTEE	1,615.66	7,000.00
CIVIC	76,792.62	79,000.00
COMMUNITY PLANNING	177.97	1,000.00
CONTINGENCIES	238.00	2,000.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	4,200.00	4,200.00
GILD HALL RENTAL	1,020.00	900.00
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE	0.00	50.00
MISCELLEANOUS EXP.	0.00	
PLAYGROUND	1,497.22	1,850.00
REGISTRATION	803.50	1,200.00
SAFETY	1,890.00	5,268.00
TAXES	242,107.08	249,500.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.	2,901.00	3,400.00
TOWN BOOKEEPING SER Gross Wages	2,266.00	2,681.00
TOWN SECRETARY	5,599.00	6,624.00
TRUSTEE ADMINISTRATIVE	58,889.18	48,170.00
MEM. GARDEN Expense	2,286.24	
Sherwood Forest Expense	15,000.00	
Total Expense	<u>422,413.95</u>	<u>418,793.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>92,278.01</u>	<u>2,207.00</u>
Net Income	<u>92,278.01</u>	<u>2,207.00</u>

10. ARCHIVES—Lisa Mullinax made the following report.

Work has been completed on the Craft Shop Museum and the Archives Committee is making preparations for our move there. We had two meetings at the Museum: one to determine immediate needs for our move, including necessary purchases, final preparations for the building, and logistics. We also met with the Craft Shop Museum Board to discuss roles and responsibilities.

With our remaining budget for 2003–2004, we have purchased some necessary office equipment, including a phone and answering machine, additional archive storage supplies, and window shades and UV filtering material to ensure safety and security in our storage areas. We have also upgraded our PastPerfect software to the latest version and to enable us to network multiple computers. This will allow up to five people to catalog the collection at the same time.

We are asking for the donation of one or more computers for the Museum. There will be an item in the next Arden Page describing the hardware requirements.

We plan to move as much as possible of the collection and the furnishings on April 3 and 4 (Saturday and Sunday). Please let me know if you can volunteer to help on one of those days—especially if you have a strong back, any moving equipment, and/or a truck or van. Thank you!

Lisa also noted that Jean Brockman had asked that memorials in her honor be given to the Archives, a wish much appreciated. The report of the Archives Committee was accepted unanimously.

11. ARDEN CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM—No report.

12. ASSESSORS—No report.

13. AUDIT—No report.

14. BUDGET—Tom Frantz handed out the Three-Year Forecast, as found in the following pages. This report had the following comments.

General: The significant increase in budgeted expenses for 2004–2005 is due to the substantial amount requested by the Avery Property purchase. After this year's appropriation total, budgeted expenses are expected to return to historical levels. However, this is offset by increases in the non-budgeted expenses. With the passage of the Avery Property purchase referendum, a 15-year mortgage to cover the funding of the mortgage has been included in the budget forecast. The overall Forecast Spend for the next three years (out to 2007–2008) is estimated to be 4.4%.

Property Taxes: (a) County Taxes: represents a 1% yearly increase. (b) School Taxes: represents a 2.5% yearly increase. (c) Over the 3-year period, the projection is for a 4.4% increase.

Avery Property Purchase: The exact mortgage amount for the Avery property purchase is not known. This will vary depending upon additional donations and charges prior to settlement. With an estimated mortgage of \$165,000 at 7% for 15 years, this equates to approximately \$18,000 per year.

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee: The Buzz Ware budget has been segmented into four key sections—program administration, maintenance, renovation projects, and a fund for roof replacement. The roof replacement project is anticipated to cost \$12,000. (\$6,000 has been accrued for two years.)

Civic Committee: The Civic Committee expects to maintain, if not decrease, spending. Trash pick-up charges have not increased as significantly as expected. Additionally, the special trash pick-up has not been as costly as in years past. However, last sum-

mer's weather has increased the number of trees requiring trimming or removal.

Town Expenses: The 3-year increase is 6%, mainly to reflect: (i) The annual increase in part-time salaries for secretarial and bookkeeping duties. This increase is at the annual rate of 2 to 3%. (ii) Arden will increase its donation to support our local fire companies, ACRA, Arden Page, and the Library. (iii) The rental of the Gild Hall is expected to increase to \$1,000 per year.

After asking for questions from the floor, Mary Marconi asked Tom why we have increased our donations to fire companies. Tom replied that it was thought important to support the fire companies. Lynda Kolski noted that the Avery Property need not be a special line item after 2004-2005. The report of the Budget Committee was accepted unanimously. [See pages 10-11 for 3-Year Budget Forecast.]

15. BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER—Debbie Theis read the following report from Betty O'Regan, Chair.

Nominees for committee positions: Pam Pearson, Patrick Barry, Jane Frantz and Cynthia DeWitt

Bathroom renovations will be wrapping up in the next several weeks. The committee's decision to complete these renovations at this time have proven to be a wise one; extensive wood rot due to long-term water damage was found in the walls, along with a major hole in one of the main plumbing lines. We are looking forward to our new upgraded and handicap-accessible bathrooms and would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during this extended project.

The second benefit auction for renovations at the BWVC will be held Saturday, May 8th. We netted \$13,000.00 from the first auction two years ago and hope with the money we raise from this second auction to be able to implement the first phase of our window renovations. We need donations for the auction, everything from artwork, furniture and collectibles to all kind of personal services.

We also need volunteers to help with the auction. For artwork donations contact Pam Pearson; for other items and services contact Mary Marconi. If you would like to volunteer for the auction contact Marguerite Archer or Donna Driesbach. So if you remember how much fun the first auction was, get involved now.

Our fourth annual Day of Relaxation proved once again to be a delightful event. Doors and windows were opened to the sunny, warm weather—an invitation to all to hang out with Linda at the picnic table; sip tea and nibble on sweets in the Tea Room, have an intuitive reading done or relax with a session of energy work, shiatsu, reflexology or massage. This continues to be an event that everyone wants to keep as an annual event—some people even hint that we should do this more often!

A variety of other activities also continue to keep the Buzz hummin': committee and organization meetings most week nights with craft night thrown in; acting and art classes on Saturdays; exercise groups during the week; our Coffee House the 2nd Friday of the month and an increasing number of concerts by groups such as Greenwillow Folk Club and Brandywine Friends of Old Time music.

Betty O'Regan is stepping down as our building scheduler. We want to thank her for five years of keeping our calendar on track—a job entailing many phone calls! Our new scheduler is Deb Theis. The shift occurred March 15th so for all your current scheduling needs please call Deb.

Following the report, Ruth Bean asked, with Archives moving out of the Buzz Ware Village Center into the Arden Craft Shop Museum, what plans are afoot, especially for stage? Debbie said there were no answers at moment, still in planning stage. [Was this a pun?] Pete Renzetti [never far from a pun] noted that he built the enclosure and will remove it. Steve Threefoot asked Deb to thank Betty for her efforts.

BUDGET COMMITTEE
THREE YEAR FORECAST OF EXPENSES as of March 22, 2004
for Fiscal Years 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

NON-BUDGET EXPENSES:	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
	ACTUAL	APPRO- PRIATED	APPRO- PRIATED	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
Property Taxes:						
County	56,921	57,059	57,630	59,000	59,590	60,186
School	182,624	184,201	189,727	203,000	208,075	213,277
Sub-Total: Property Taxes	<u>\$239,545</u>	<u>\$241,260</u>	<u>\$247,357</u>	<u>\$262,000</u>	<u>\$267,665</u>	<u>\$273,463</u>
Avery Property Purchase						
Long-Term Debt Payments	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Trustees Administration:						
Audit	\$4,120	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,500	5,500
Insurance	7,180	8,500	8,500	8,500	9,000	9,500
Legal	2,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous/Operations & Fees	8,088	6,500	6,500	7,000	7,000	7,500
Office Rent	2,100	2,100	2,160	2,200	2,250	2,300
Payroll Taxes	1,561	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,800	1,850
Salaries:Administration	<u>9,180</u>	<u>9,420</u>	<u>9,600</u>	<u>9,840</u>	<u>10,140</u>	<u>10,440</u>
Sub-Total: Trustees Admin.	<u>\$34,729</u>	<u>\$48,170</u>	<u>\$48,460</u>	<u>\$49,290</u>	<u>\$50,690</u>	<u>\$52,090</u>
Other Non-Budget Expenses:						
Grants - State of Delaware						
State Grant (Arts) to BWVC Comm.						
State Grant for Roads						
to Civic Committee	13,596	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Delaware Municipal Street						
Aid - Roads	28,726	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Sub-Total: Other N.B. Expenses	<u>\$42,322</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$32,000</u>
TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES	\$316,596	\$321,430	\$327,817	\$361,290	\$368,355	\$375,553

BUDGET EXPENSES:	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
	ACTUAL	APPRO- PRIATED	APPRO- PRIATED	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
Advisory	-	300	300	300	300	300
Archives	2,900	3,600	1,700	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board of Assessors	-	50	50	50	50	50
Buzz Ware Village Center						
Program/Administration	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Maintenance	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
Renovation Projects	5,721	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Roof Replacement	6,000	6,000	-	-		
Civic Committee:						
Roads	17,111	17,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	17,000
Commons & Forests	15,535	20,000	21,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Trash Collection	40,641	40,000	43,000	41,000	42,000	40,000
Special Clean-up	1,768	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sub-Total Civic Committee	<u>75,055</u>	<u>79,000</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>81,000</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>79,000</u>
Community Planning	1,981	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Avery Task Force	1,726	2,000	25,000	2,000	-	-
Grants - State of Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legislative Reference	-	50	100	100	100	100
Playground	1,067	1,850	1,750	1,850	1,900	1,950
Equipment	-	-				

THREE YEAR FORECAST (continued)

BUDGET EXPENSES:	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 APPRO- PRIATED	2004-2005 APPRO- PRIATED	2005-2006 FORECAST	2006-2007 FORECAST	2007-2008 FORECAST
Registration Committee	515	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Safety - General	25	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Town Watch Coordinator Fee	2,000	2,268	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Harvey Rd. Enforcement	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Town Expenses						
Salaries:						
Secretary	5,932	6,624	6,804	6,900	7,200	7,200
Bookkeeping - Town	2,402	2,681	2,748	2,748	2,800	2,940
Town Telephone						
Misc.Operations/Fees	214	3,400	4,000	3,500	3,750	3,750
Gild Hall Rental	850	900	900	1,000	1,000	1,000
Donations:						
ACRA	1,300	1,350	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500
Arden Page	1,300	1,350	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500
Arden Library	500	550	550	550	600	600
Fire Companies	950	950	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,500
Sub-Total Town Expenses	<u>13,448</u>	<u>17,805</u>	<u>18,902</u>	<u>18,848</u>	<u>19,850</u>	<u>19,990</u>
Fireproof File Cabinet: Town Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contingencies	<u>432</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	<u>\$105,870</u>	<u>\$121,123</u>	<u>\$156,402</u>	<u>\$123,748</u>	<u>\$123,800</u>	<u>\$120,990</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$422,466</u>	<u>\$442,553</u>	<u>\$484,219</u>	<u>\$485,038</u>	<u>\$492,155</u>	<u>\$496,543</u>
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008

16. CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sue Rothrock reported that the Arden Woods Survey is done and the biologist and botanist will make presentation in the near future.

The Committee has decided to mark the paths in the Village with 4x4 path posts, which will be very attractive, with the names of the paths carved into the posts. None installed yet. We have lost some paths in past. This will help preserve and announce the paths.

Recycling is tomorrow. Sue has bright red bins. Costs for trash have gone down in spite of rise in gas prices, less dump fee.

Spring clean-up of the Woods is April 24, which will be announced in the *Page* and with a flyer. Beverly Barnett asked what percent of the Ardens re-cycle. Sue, don't know but lots of red containers are going out. Alton Dahl noted that recycling is lots easier now that we don't have to separate items. The Civic Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

17. COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE—Lynda Kolski made this report:

Memorial Garden: It may not feel like it, but Saturday was the first day of Spring, so it would be much appreciated if families who put out Christmas and holiday decorations in the Memorial Garden could remove them. With Easter just a few weeks away, it would be nice to have the Memorial Garden cleaned up and ready for Easter and spring flowers. The Memorial Garden Spring clean-up will be held Saturday, May 1, with the rain date Sunday, May 2.

Land Use Issues: On March 17, the Dreamers hosted Bob Weiner and Charlie Baker, Manager of the County Land Use Department, to talk about the proposed

Hometown Overlay Ordinance. It was an informative discussion and they were able to answer lots of residents' questions. Community Planning will look at the final version after it is voted on tomorrow night by County Council, as a possible solution to some of Arden's land use issues. We have invited the trustees to our next meeting on April 29 to talk with them about what they feel are issues that need to be addressed by the village. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of constructive dialogue on how to deal with some of the issues that Arden is struggling to deal with.

Woods Clean-up: The annual woods clean-up will be held on April 24. Watch the *Page* for details. [Details would also be in a flyer announcing the Special Trash Pickup on April 24 and the two public hearings of the Assessors.] As suggested during the Avery Report, we will ask Marsha Avery if we can include her property in the clean-up.

The Community Planning Committee's report was unanimously accepted.

18. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE COMMITTEE—no report.

19. PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE—Larry Walker made the following report.

During the past two months, the one required Playground Inspection was conducted and all equipment was "adult tested" to ensure safety. All equipment is in safe condition.

On the Village Green, the areas under the playground equipment were mulched to cover the "fall zone" to the depth of 12 inches. The areas on the Sherwood Green will be mulched next month.

The Playground Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

20. REGISTRATION COMMITTEE—Cecilia Vore made the following report.

Ballots were counted on Thursday, March 11, for the referendum on the purchase of the Avery property. There were 354 residents eligible to vote in this referendum. We received 285 valid envelopes containing ballots; there was 80.5% participation.

Under the rules for approval, the referendum needed 178 "Approve" votes to pass. We received 260 votes to "Approve" and 24 to "Disapprove," thereby passing the referendum.

Ballots for tonight's election of committees and officers will be counted tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. at Cecilia Vore's house. All are welcome to attend.

The Registration Committee's report was unanimously accepted.

21. SAFETY AND TOWN WATCH

Denis O'Regan asked that the following ordinance be voted on tonight after this, the third reading.

The following Ordinance is submitted by the Safety Committee to the Town Assembly as required by House Bill No. 172, passed on July 25, 2003. All municipalities must pass such requirements by March 1, 2004.

*****ORDINANCE 13, SECTION 9

It shall be the duty of individuals and artificial entities that provide public parking to provide parking spaces for persons with disabilities. The number of spaces required shall be in accordance with the requirements of New Castle County and the State of Delaware.

It shall be the duty of individuals and artificial entities that provide public parking to erect and maintain signage on parking spaces for persons with dis-

abilities. The signage shall be in accordance with the requirements of New Castle County and the State of Delaware.

The Safety Committee shall enforce the requirements of this ordinance. Enforcement shall consist of first writing a warning to the individual or entity that has failed to comply with all provisions of the ordinance. If, after thirty (30) days from the date of the warning, the individual or entity has still not complied, the Safety Committee may apply for a warrant in the name of the individual or artificial entity.

The penalty for non-compliance with this ordinance is One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per month until such time as the individual or artificial entity complies with the ordinance.

Elizabeth Varley moved and Pete Renzetti seconded that the ordinance be accepted as read. Aaron Hamburger asked if we know specifics of the parking regulations? Denis answered, yes, he will provide that information to the Arden Club. Alton Dahl asked what the effective date of this ordinance. Denis answered, "Immediately." Steven suggested that the Safety inform all affected entities of the details and give them a date by which to be in compliance. Discussion of why we need to comply followed, basically because the State of Delaware says we need to. Vote by raised hands. Vote passes 47 Aye, 1 abstention. The Safety Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

22. OLD BUSINESS

Hugh Roberts re-introduced his resolution from last meeting, a resolution affecting Resolutions of Opinions. He then gave some background on voting at Town Meetings in general. He pointed out that, on a recent resolution concerning the "Patriot" Act, several people abstained but all that was reported was that there was only one "no" vote. Alton suggested widening the motion to include all resolutions. Cecilia asked if we could include abstentions. If ayes and nays are recorded, said Hugh, abstentions will be evident from number present. Steve Tanzer suggests that abstentions be included in the reporting, a revision Hugh accepted. Question called. The resolution, as amended, read as follows:

RESOLUTION: Vote Counts of Resolutions

*******Moved, that resolutions should be received and considered by the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden. The following procedure should be followed when considering these resolutions.**

The Registration Committee shall make an accurate count of the vote. The vote count shall be either by standing, hand or ballot and not by voice.

The Secretary of the Town Assembly or designate shall make available to news media the result of the vote incorporating the following information: votes for, votes against, abstentions, the number of registered voters attending the Town Assembly, and the number of registered voters in the Village of Arden.

This resolution passed with a raised-hands vote: 24 ayes, 8 nos and 11 abstentions.

23. NEW BUSINESS

Pete Renzetti reported on three lots bought by Anthony Vari Builders just across Naaman's Creek from Pete's house. Without any permits or notice, this developer cleared the lots of old tree growth in December. Situation now is that the developer can build on one piece of property and is in violation on other two properties. Pete has

contacted the New Castle County Department of Land Use and elected representatives in his role as a member of the Naaman's Creek Watershed Association and is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

24. GOOD & WELFARE—none.

25. ADJOURNMENT at 9:13 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny N. Schweers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danny N. Schweers, Secretary