

Minutes of the
Town Assembly
of the Village of Arden

meeting on
January 24, 2005

as prepared by
Danny Schweers
Secretary

Nominees for Arden Village Committees & Officers

Voting will take place at the Town Meeting on March 28, 2005, and will be one of the first orders of business once the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Early voting will be held 6:15–7:15 p.m. *for those who cannot attend the meeting.*

Nominees are listed alphabetically • Blank spaces will be on the ballot for write-ins.

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT!

ARCHIVES

vote for 3
D Bittinger
Terry Colgan
Mary Marconi
Lisa Mullinax*
Roberta Perkins*
Ann Schmittinger

AUDIT

vote for 2
Christine Demsey*
Ann Schmittinger
Johnny Tucker, Jr.
Laura Wallace

BUDGET

vote for 3
Amy Mullins
Denis O'Regan
Atul Shah
Steve Tanzer
Susan Warner
[one more nominee needed]

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER

vote for 3
Maria Burslem
Willard Glenn
Allan Kleban*
Lynda Kolski*
Donny Lipstein
Pam Politis

CIVIC

vote for 3
Steven Blades
Dale Brumbaugh
Deborah Kenney*
Mary Marconi
Deb Ricard
Susan Rothrock*

COMMUNITY PLANNING

vote for 3
Terry Colgan
Mary Lo
Peter Renzetti
Sally Sharp
Barbara Shippy
Lynn Svenning

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

vote for 3
Brooke Bovard*
Hays Butler*
Christine Demsey*
Steven Harcourt
[two more nominees needed]

PLAYGROUND

vote for 3
Robert Bryan
Dale Sampson-Levin
Mary Vernon*
Larry Walker*
Leah Walker
Laura Wallace

REGISTRATION

vote for 2
Ruth Bean*
Maria Burslem
Julia McNeil
Beth Stevenson*

SAFETY

vote for 3
Tom Frantz
Donny Lipstein
Stephen Mullins
Denis O'Regan*
Ron Ozer
Peter Renzetti*

ADVISORY CHAIR

vote for 1
Elizabeth Varley*

TOWN ASSEMBLY CHAIR

vote for 1
Steven Threefoot*

TOWN SECRETARY

vote for 1
Danny Schweers*

*=incumbent

Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (uncorrected)
Monday, January 24, 2005
Gild Hall – Arden, Delaware

Forty-five (45) residents were in attendance, as shown below. Of these, 38 attended the last meeting. 138 residents who attended the last meeting did not attend this meeting. In recent years, attendance at January meetings was 78 in 2004, 51 in 2003, 49 in 2002, 50 in 2001, 99 in 2000, 74 in 1999, 56 in 1998, 60 in 1997, and 56 in 1996.

Ruth Bean
Samuel "Lou" Bean
D Bittinger
Terry Ann Colgan
Jeanne Corman
Mike Curtiss
Christine Demsey
John Demsey
Dorinda Dove
Aaron Hamburger
Sally Hanburger
Amy Hill
Rodney W. Jester
Laura Johnson
Allan Kleban
June Kleban
Lynda Kolski

Don Lipstein
Betty O'Regan
Denis O'Regan
Helen Ohlson
Ron Ozer
Ruth Panella
Roberta Perkins
Jeffrey Politis
William Press
Peter A. Renzetti
Charles E. Robinson
Nanette B. Robinson
Shelley Robyn
Richard Rothrock
Susan Rothrock
Kate Sayer
Annie Schmittinger

Danny Schweers
Sadie Somerville
Beth Stevenson
Steve Tanzer
Debbie Theis
Bill Theis
Steven Threefoot
Elizabeth Varley
Cecilia Vore
Larry Walker
Laura Wallace

*Also in attendance
but not voting were
Jonas Oesterle.*

[Waiting for a quorum, Steven Threefoot notes that the water pipes are frozen in Gild Hall, so there is no coffee or tea, but the bathrooms are functional. The temperature in the morning was near zero degrees Fahrenheit, and a half-inch of snow had fallen in the afternoon, yet the Gild Hall was warmer this night than in many previous years.]

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Steven Threefoot calls the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

(2) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Prior to the meeting, Ruth Bean offered the following corrections to the minutes as published:

- The minor in attendance was Jamie Bean O'Neill, her grandson, not "Janice";
- The exercise group mentioned on page 16 is called "Feldenkreis"; and
- The sentence on page 11 should read, "Cecilia noted that non-resident leaseholders cannot vote on this issue...", otherwise only renters could have voted.

With these corrections, the minutes of the last meeting are approved unanimously.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS.

Steven Threefoot offers a summary of various communications and encourages residents to contact him for details.

Delaware Nature Society wants to cooperate more with the villages of Arden. They start on February 12 with a workshop, Saturday after dinner. Their representatives will join us for dinner.

A letter was sent from the chairs of the Ardens to Susan McDonald, FAA, reminding her that our villages will be impacted by any changes at Philadelphia Airport.

Village got a letter from our former County Councilman, Bob Wiener, thanking us for the candidate forum we hosted and for the opportunity to moderate it.

South Market Street Bridge in Wilmington will be temporarily closed by DelDOT.

Negotiations are proceeding with Comcast to renew a 10-15 year franchise agreement on television. The three village chairs are negotiating as a team, to share legal fees. Already established is that high-speed internet will be placed in the Library and the Buzz, plus the Buzz will get cable TV. Also, the villages will get public access if they want it, which can include videos of Town Meetings, Shakespeare and Ardensing productions, Georgist Gild classes, etc. Many opportunities are possible. Franchise agreement ends in April. Mike Curtis asked if there was any offer of cash? Steven replied the village may get revenue from two items. (1) Franchise fee. Comcast pays for access to rights of way, about \$4,000 a year is what it has been. Comcast customers will find that itemized on their bills. By law, it cannot exceed five percent. (2) There is a one-time signing bonus, to be negotiated.

Steven asked the Solid Waste Authority, by e-mail, about the recycling program. Between September 7 and December 31, of last year (2004) the three Ardens recycled 53,390 pounds of trash. That is an average weekly pickup of 3,500 pounds, with about 150 participants in the three Ardens. These are good usage rates but, of course, we would like to do better.

Buckingham Heights and Sherwood Greene both thanked Steven for attending their recent meeting. He let them know about our addition to Sherwood Forest and let them know they were welcome thither.

(4) NEW RESIDENTS

D Bittinger and Laura Johnson moved here in June.

(5) DECEASED

Bernie Kleban, after a long and active life in Arden, died in October.

Karen Jones, former resident, was living in Ardentown when she died Dec. 5.

(6) CLAYMONT RENAISSANCE

Eva Abbott wrote the following reports, from which Steven Threefoot reads excerpts. [Note: these reports are available on www.TheArdens.com, as are the minutes of Town Meetings.]

Meeting on December 15, 2004

As you probably have noticed, construction of Dunkin' Donuts, Wawa and McDonalds are all moving along. The good news for Claymont is that the owners of Brookview Apartments have agreed to sell. This is 67 acres Claymont hopes will be levelled and turned into upscale (with a mix of affordable housing) homes with the lots of green and a low number of rentals. They've already talked with a group out of D.C. that is interested in purchasing the property.

The new committee structure hasn't been approved by NCCo yet. DRAC (Design Review Advisory Committee) will replace the current Renaissance group. This com-

mittee should be ready to roll by the January meeting and they hope to have at least one new potential business applicant's plans to review. The other group is called the CRDC (Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation) and they are charged with attracting businesses to Claymont. They had a grand opening of their office in the Community Center last month and are looking for funding.

Meeting on January 20, 2005

Claymont had its first official meeting tonight of the Design Review Advisory Committee (DRAC). Because there were no applicants who wanted their business plans reviewed, the meeting proceeded as usual.

WAWA got its building permit this week and McDonalds is laying concrete; Dunkin Donuts is on hold. The old Fisharama is (unhappily) going to be a storage place for restaurant supplies and a nail salon. The development arm of the Claymont Renaissance opened up their office in the Community Center, and is hoping to secure funds to better market Claymont and lure more interesting stores to set up shop there.

The biggest news is still that Brookview owners want to sell the complex. Councilmen Bob Weiner is pressing the prospective buyer (Ideal Realty) to find a developer who will build an urban-friendly community with an emphasis on home ownership.

One interesting plan discussed tonight is that Claymont is going to be part of the Urban Appalachian Trail. There is a national movement that wants to connect urban cities from Maine to Florida using SEPTA to get from place to place locally. SEPTA has committed to providing bike storage on their trains so theoretically one could roll their bike on a SEPTA train in Boston, debark and bike around Claymont for a couple of hours, hop on another train and do the same around Wilmington, stay at a local bed and breakfast and then head south.

(7) ADVISORY

Elizabeth Varley noted that elections will be held at the next Town Meeting and that two nominees are required for each vacant position on the committees. [Only one nominee is needed for the offices of Town Assembly Chair, Secretary, and Advisory Chair.] Cecilia Vore then noted the nominations already made and asked for more.

Archives: Lisa Mullinax, Roberta Perkins, Barbara Macklem, D. Bittinger, and Terry Colgan have been nominated. One more nominee is needed.

Audit: Laura Wallace and Christine Demsey have been nominated. Two more nominees are needed.

Budget: Steve Tanzer have been nominated. Five more nominees are needed.

BWVC: Allan Kleban, Lynda Kolski, Pam Politis, Willard Glenn, Donny Lipstein, and Maria Burslem have been nominated.

Civic: Deborah Kenney and Sue Rothrock have been nominated. Four more needed.

Community Planning: Mary Lo, Peter Renzetti, Barbara Shippy, Terry Colgan, Lynne Svenning, and Sally Sharp have been nominated.

Legislative Reference: Christine Demsey has been nominated. Five more nominees are needed.

Playground: Mary Vernon and Larry Walker have been nominated. Four more nominees are needed.

Registration: Ruth Bean, Maria Burslem, Julia McNeil and Beth Stevenson have been nominated.

Safety: Peter Renzetti, Denis O'Regan, Steven Mullins, Ron Ozer, and Donny Lipstein have been nominated. One more nominee is needed.

Town Assembly Chair: Steven Threefoot has agreed to serve again.

Secretary: Danny Schweers has agreed to serve again.

Advisory Chair: Elizabeth Varley has agreed to serve again.

(8) **TRUSTEES:**

No report, since Connee McKinney absent, possibly because of the bad weather. *[The report Connee would have made is found below.]*

CONNIE'S DELAYED REPORT

1. Land Rent for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year:

The Land Rent collected will be: \$383,539.45.

The Land Rent collected with credits and arrearages will be: \$389,891.87

[NOTE: the complete listing of land rents is available from the Trustees.]

2. Buckingham Greene:

Judge Noble has asked that engineers representing Arden and the defendants begin to put together a viable plan to address the damage to Sherwood Forest.

TRUSTEES FINANCIAL REPORTS

Aaron Hamburger offered to address questions on the financial reports (seen below and to the right).

Peter Renzetti: Why is there almost \$850,000 in expense for Sherwood Forest? Didn't state and county each contribute a third of that? Aaron replied, yes, but their contributions were grants to Arden, which show on the income side. The village actually made the entire payment for the property.

Receipts and Bank Balances as of January 21, 2005

Checking/Savings

ARDEN BUILDING & LOAN - TRUSTEE	\$120,048.44
TRUSTEES - WILMINGTON TRUST	20,721.16
VANGUARD	
FUND 30	22,050.47
FUND 33	28,815.47
MSA - FUND 50	<u>48,026.27</u>
Total VANGUARD	<u>98,892.21</u>
Total Checking/Savings	244,661.81

Accounts Receivable

LAND RENT RECEIVABLE	<u>4,164.44</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>4,164.44</u>
Total Current Assets	248,826.25

(9) **SAFETY**

Steven Threefoot moves that, as part of DEMA, the village adopt an all-hazard mitigation plan for the village, as follows:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN, DELAWARE

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, a local Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee comprised of county governmental departments, municipal council members, the business community,

Trustee Quarterly Report, April 1, 2004 through January 21, 2005

Ordinary Income/Expense	Budget
Income	
DONATIONS	\$744,004.00
GRANTS	24,130.36
Interest - Trustees Cking Acct	158.82
INVESTMENT INCOME	4,652.38
LAND RENT	372,860.62
LAND RENT FINANCE CHARGE	1,019.11
MEADOW LANE ACCESS	704.52
MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS	2,835.00
RIGHTS-OF-WAY	10,245.48
Uncategorized Income	312.67
ARCHIVES/MUSEUM	710.00
Total Income	426,704.52
Expense	
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	16.42
ARCHIVES	1,482.22
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	50.00
BuzzWareVC COMMITTEE	7,008.03
CIVIC	54,292.98
COMMUNITY PLANNING	33.21
CONTINGENCIES	0.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	4,450.00
GILD HALL RENTAL	900.00
GRANT EXPENSE	425.00
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE	0.00
Sherwood Forest Loan	11,006.63
PLAYGROUND	1,770.00
REGISTRATION	348.50
SAFETY	1,800.00
TAXES	256,353.99
TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.	2,396.79
TOWN BOOKEEPING SER Gross Wages	1,899.00
TOWN SECRETARY	4,698.00
TRUSTEE ADMINISTRATIVE	51,214.78
MEMORIAL GARDEN (Not Subject to Referendum)	3,088.33
ARCHIVES/MUSEUM (Not Subject to Referendum)	3,415.00
Sherwood Forest Expense (Purchase)	846,721.87
Total Expense	1,253,370.75
Net Ordinary Income	-91,737.79
Net Income	-91,737.79

non-profit organizations, and citizens working in New Castle County of the State of Delaware, convened in order to study the village of Arden's risks from, and vulnerabilities to natural, technological and terroristic threats, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the village, and

WHEREAS, a contract was issued to an experienced consulting firm to work with the New Castle County Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee, and the Delaware Emergency management Agency to develop a comprehensive all-hazard mitigation plan for New Castle County of Delaware, and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Village of Arden and New Castle County, and the consulting firm have resulted in the development of an All Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County and the Village of Arden.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Assembly that the All Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated September, 2004, is hereby approved and adopted for the Village of Arden and New Castle County of the State Delaware.

Pete Renzetti seconds the motion. Steven comments that there is lots of bureaucracy involved, and that we are more or less required to join in this plan, which has been evolving for last 18 months.

Jeff Politis: what does this plan do, what obligations? Steven: no obligations.

Rick Rothrock: Hazards are bad, they need to be mitigated. I'm for this!

Denis O'Regan: I went to three DEMA meetings. Fact is there are lots of professionals involved to build structures to mitigate hazards. Doing this on our own would be massive, best to go along with New Castle County. Call for vote is made by Elizabeth Varley, which passes unanimously.

Denis went on to report for the Safety Committee that there was a hazard in December, a tree down on Millers Road near Marsh. Denis met Sue Rothrock there. Tom Wheeler unstuck Denis's chain saw.

Town Watch, Denis said, reported three separate tire slashings of same car on Swiss Lane, early this year. The Safety Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(10) REGISTRATION

Cecilia presented the results from the November 10, 2004 referendums and the election of Assessors.

Eligible voters: 349; Ballots Received: 274. That equals 78.5% participation!

Special Referendum on Land Rent Assessment

With 175 votes needed to pass either assessment, the Assessors Committee's Assessment received 89 votes and the Alternate Assessment received 177 votes, meaning the alternative assessment was approved.

2005-2006 Budget Referendum

With 175 votes needed to approve an item, the entire budget passed.

221 - Approved Entire Budget

6 - Disapproved Entire Budget

o - Invalid ballots

34 - Ballots with itemized disapprovals as follows:

Advisory Committee - 2	Archives - 4
Board of Assessors - 2	BWVC Program/Administration - 6
BWVC Maintenance - 2	BWVC Renovations- 10
BWVC Roof Renovations - 6	Civic Committee - Roads - 3
Civic - Commons and Forests - 2	Civic - Trash Collection - 6
Civic - Special Cleanup - 2	Community Planning - 6

Legislative Reference - 4	Playground Committee - 1
Registration Committee - 1	Safety Committee: General - 4
Safety- Town Watch Coord - 6	Safety- HarveyRd Speed Enf - 18
Town Admin Expenses - 4	Salary- Secretary - 2
Salary-Bookkeeping: Town - 2	Donations - ACRA - 3
Donations - Arden Page - 2	Donations - Arden Library - 3
Donations - Fire Companies - 4	Gild Hall Rental - 19
Contingencies - 1	

Board of Assessors Election

Denis O'Regan was elected convener. Also elected were (in this order): Tom Frantz, Jane Frantz, Walter Borders, Brooke Bovard, Laura Wallace, Larry Walker.

Thanks go to Steven Blades, Alida Fish, Harold Kalmus, Ron Ozer, Charles Robinson, Ray Seigfried, and Stephen Tanis who were willing to serve and allowed their names to be placed in nomination.

Cecilia also said, "Letters appeared in both the December and January issues of the Arden Page concerning the Arden referendum process and the requirement that a referendum must be approved by a majority of residents. To respond briefly to those concerns, the Registration Committee would like to assure the Town Assembly that we are conducting referendum elections according to the Act to Reincorporate. The Act to Reincorporate requires a referendum to be approved by a majority of all residents. Any changes to the approval needed to pass a referendum must be made by amending the Act to Reincorporate. Until that is done, the Registration Committee will continue to comply with the existing Act to Reincorporate.

"Committee elections will be held at the March Town Meeting. The Registration Committee will conduct early balloting from 6:15 to 7:15 for those who are unable to attend the rest of the meeting. Regular voting will take place at the start of the meeting and people may continue to vote until the meeting adjourns. The final deadline for nominations is the March Advisory Meeting. A sample ballot will appear with the March agenda so voters can consider the candidates ahead of time."

The Registration Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(11) PLAYGROUND

Larry Walker made the following report, which was accepted unanimously.

"During the past four months, the required two playground equipment inspections were held, and all equipment is in safe condition. All equipment was "adult tested" to ensure its safety. When weather permits, additional wood chips will be spread under the equipment to maintain the "fall zone" for the children using the swings and the slides." The Playground Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(12) LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

Hays Butler reported that the Advisory Committee has asked the Legislative Reference Committee to consider continuance or passing responsibility on to another committee. The committee has not been able to meet, would like three nominees. The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(13) COMMUNITY PLANNING

Jeanne Corman, co-chair, made the following report.

Item 1: Community Planning would like to raise awareness on an upcoming issue of interest to the Ardens. New Castle County Executive Chris Coons announced he is in favor of establishing a storm water utility as a way of controlling flooding in the county. There is interest in establishing a utility on the state level as well. This utility

takes different forms around the country, but generally funding comes from a fee collected from property owners to pay for the management and improvement of drainage systems. The fees are based on the ratio of impervious to pervious surface that a residential or commercial property has. The Community Property Committee will continue to track the progress of this issue since Arden has an interest in how storm water run-off impacts our creeks and forests as well as an interest in determining how a utility like this would be established, including how the fees would be assessed and utilized. If anyone would like more information on this, please contact a member of the committee.

Item 2: Mike Curtis will be giving his presentation on Henry George and the single tax at the next Community Planning meeting. The meeting is February 16 at the Buzz Ware in Room Three at 7:00 p.m. If anyone missed his presentation on January 18, this is an opportunity to raise your awareness of the Single Tax system and its relevance to issues currently of interest in Arden.

Item 3: Community Planning has an open position due to Julie Hannum's resignation. The Committee moves that Michael Falstad fill Julie's term through 2006. Seconded by Elizabeth Varley. No other nominations were made from the floor. The vote is unanimous to fill the position.

Denis O'Regan asked if Community Planning had considered how to address the deteriorating concrete bridge across the old swimming hole. If that is washed away, we may not be able to rebuild it. Jeanne replied that the committee will consider it, not this meeting, but next.

Lynda Kolski asked if this wasn't something the Civic Committee should examine? No, replied Sue Rothrock; this is planning, not maintenance.

Steven Threefoot noted that, in calculating storm water runoff, much of the open land in the Ardens is not part of the Trust, so percentages may be off.

The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(14) CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sue Rothrock reported that the Village has done a good job on recycling; that there will be a meeting on mandatory recycling later this month. There was an article in the *News Journal*, in which Wayne Smith said it won't fly because constituents don't want it.

Sue met with an urban forester. The tree at Indian Circle has been damaged year after year, has been repaired three times, and needs to be repaired again or brought down. The urban forester prefers the latter option. He says ivy is biggest problem facing the forest. Fire follows it up trees. Elaine Schmerling, of Ardentown, has a group pulling ivy all over the woods. Ivy is our most aggressive invasive. It kills trees.

Sue asked if the town wants mosquito control. We can get this from agency.

Lynda Kolski made a motion that Arden is not in favor of chemical control of mosquitoes and is not interested in this spraying. Christine Demsey seconded motion.

Lynda: dogs everywhere drinking, don't want toxins in our water, which can be ingested by children, wildlife.

Jeff Politis: What are we talking about. I have a child and dog, but mosquitoes are themselves a threat. What are the levels?

Ruth Bean: I don't remember ever having spraying. We used to get lots of mosquitoes but don't anymore. There isn't a problem.

Betty O'Regan: Two dead crows seen last summer, have concern with more serious diseases.

Jeff Politis: what is asked?

Sue: infestation is three bites a minute. The chemicals used, *lavra bacillus thurgiensis*, is very safe, a juvenile hormone mimic, plus an organo-phosphate, put in marshes and wetlands, where people not likely to be.

Elizabeth Varley: Of these chemicals mentioned, only one of concern is the organo-phosphates. Everything else is safe. The growth interrupter is specific to insects.

Sue: doubt that we get to choose which they use.

Lynda: Reminder of trucks spraying DDT, which was deemed safe then. How do we know this is safe. Let's err on the side of safety.

VOTE: Ayes have it.

Sue: we need a stream watch volunteer. Want to do storm drains and creeks. Please contact Marianne Cinaglia. Steven did it for ten years.

Steve Tanzer says he spoke to Cathy Cloutier about lack of normal road funding. Recommend contacting Cathy.

June Kleban: More recycling bags, where? Sue: call 800 number on bag. June: Are we independent? Sue: Yes, now, but if recycling becomes mandatory, we will not be.

Cecilia Vore: Move that we send a letter to State Representative Wayne Smith expressing our concern over lack of street funds, that we appreciate his service in past, and hope for future. Pete Renzetti seconded.

Steve Tanzer noted that Wayne Smith didn't forget about us. Steve went on to itemize reprehensible actions in regard to Arden by Steve's recent opponent for elected office.

Lynda: would like a response. Let's invite him here instead. Move to amend motion to be an invitation to town meeting.

Cecilia did no accept Lynda's amendment.

Aaron: This is not a good way to approach Wayne. All three Ardens are involved. No street aid for the first time in 14 years. Better to approach him through Town Chair and Trustees. We will be applying again next year.

In response to this comment, Cecilia withdraw her motion, as did Pete.

The Civic Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(15) BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER

Debbie Theis made the following report.

As reported at the last town meeting, a dedication for the newly installed doors in memory of Dan Conner was held on November 14th. The day turned out to be a beautiful fall day. The sun shone, and there was a large turnout of friends and neighbors to remember and celebrate Dan. The doors are a fitting tribute to Dan and his love of wood and craftsmanship. The committee would like to thank all who made this possible.

Also in November, a three-man art show was held featuring metal workers: Phil Fisher, Pete Renzetti, and Terry Rhoades. Phil Fisher has offered to arrange future art shows to be held at the Buzz. The next one is scheduled for March 4-6, and will feature Linda Celestian, Rob Montejo, and Melissa D. Bittinger.

Coffeehouses continue the second Friday of every month. January's coffeehouse will mark the 6th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, Russ McKinney has offered to have his art on display in Room 3.

Committee meetings, Tai Chi, art and acting classes occupy the building on a regular schedule. A new program offered on Wednesday nights will be Bible study led by Lou Freeman. The Shakespeare Gild is holding the Young Actor Workshop sessions on Saturday running through February.

Ruth Bean will be returning for Valentine making on Sunday, February 6. She asks that people bring their own scissors. There will be plenty of lace and other materials to bring out the romantics in all of us.

We would like to introduce "Foster Care for the Buzz Ware." A few people have offered to take care of a small task at the building like plant care, keeping the coffeehouse closet organized and stocked—you get the idea. We find it increasingly difficult, with everyone's busy schedules, to keep the building up as well as we would like to see it. If anyone would like to volunteer for the "care and love" of one neglected part of the

Buzz, the building would thank you. Call me at 475-1995 if this sounds like something you could manage.

For the March meeting, we have three positions to fill. Allan Kleban and Lynda Kolski are running for additional 2-year terms. Additionally, Pam Politis, Willard Glenn, Donny Lipstein, and Maria Burslem have offered to run. Pamela Pearson is unable to finish her two-year term. Amy Hill, as our alternate, has agreed to complete Pam's term. I move that Amy Hill be elected to fill the vacancy on the BWVC committee.

That motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

(16) BUDGET

Danny Schweers read the following report from Tom Frantz, Committee chair, who was out of town. The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

Three-year budget projections will be going out to the committee chairs in February.

Mark Zylkin, Mary Marconi and Jeff Politis will not be running for re-election to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee wishes to thank them for their membership on the Budget Committee and their service to the Town. We need six people who are willing to serve on the Budget Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Frantz

(17) AUDIT

Helen "Cookie" Ohlson made the following report:

On October 4, 2004, Elizabeth Varley provided us with the Arden accounting books for the previous four months. They were inspected and found in order." The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(18) ASSESSORS

Denis O'Regan made the following report:

The members of this year's Assessor's Board took and signed their oaths on November 30, 2004 at the first, of two, illegal meetings that preceded the first legal meeting of the board that eventually happened on January 10, 2005.

You see, this year's board was eager to get talking and failed to advertise our first two ... sessions, as required by State law. As Convener of the Board, I take responsibility for this error. Please understand, that after events surrounding last year's assessment, we just wanted to start learning the lay of the land sooner, rather than later.

We want to tell you that our discussions in those two meetings were organizational only. There were no decisions made, numbers discussed or actions taken. In fact, in this entire process there is really only be one action taken by assessors. That is, when we submit a signed report in June.

By that time, here's what will have happened:

There will be 3 public hearings, in which all residents are welcome to voice there opinions.

There will be 6 other regular board meetings, which are open to all.

January 10	Board Meeting
February 17	Board Meeting
February 28	Public Hearing
March 14	Board Meeting
April 11	Board Meeting
May 7	Public Hearing
May 23	Board Meeting
June 8	Public Hearing
June 13	Board Meeting — FINAL

We will arrive at a full rental value assessment as required.

But, we'll do some other things:

There will be robust effort, by board members, to help all residents become more informed on how land rent is determined, how this method relates to the outside world, and how we might improve the process.

Toward our goals, we've done some new things:

We invited Trustees to attend our Jan. 10th meeting and provide the most recent tax records from the county and explain them. They did so and we thank them. We are now more informed about financial burdens that come to our community from outside.

Also, the minutes and documents of each meeting, legal and illegal, have been, and will be, posted on a new website titled "Arden Assessors". You can access it through www.TheArdens.com

And, at the end of our term, we will offer to the Village of Arden Archives this book, which we called "The Green Book". It contains information that all Arden Assessors should know. It includes legal documents governing the role and authority of the board, court cases that provide legal precedent, and other information relevant to the current method of land rent assessment. The board thanks Jane Frantz for her considerable work in gathering this material into an organized form, and also for organizing the minutes and assessors reports of the past twenty years.

This year's board feels that the Green Book is a positive step toward the goal of fair land assessment.

Sadie: Why Archives and not Secretary? We just want to get it preserved, something that has not been done.

Betty: Let's have a copy in the Library, so anyone can get it easily.

Rodney: Title 29: All municipal papers must be available to the public. All papers must be available. We need center archive. We need to consider this.

Denis: use the word "archive" that it is permanent, not hand-me down.

The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(19) ARCHIVES

Lisa Mullinax made the following report.

A story on the Arden Craft Shop Museum ran in the *News Journal* on Tuesday, January 11, and seems to have resulted in a flood of interest from the community. We have had many visitors who saw the story.

The Archive Committee's primary focus for the upcoming months is to:

- 1) Maintain our regular opening hours of Wednesday evenings 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday afternoons 1 to 3 p.m.
- 2) Continue documenting and managing the existing collection and look at additions to the collection. This includes printed matter, objects, artwork, and oral histories. To this end, we are working on documenting and formalizing Archives policies and procedures, and soliciting and training additional volunteers.

The terms of Arden Archives committee members Lisa Mullinax, Irene O'Connor and Roberta Perkins will be up in March. Many thanks to Roberta and Irene for their outstanding service to the Archives!

Lisa Mullinax and Roberta Perkins have agreed to run for re-election. Additionally, Barbara Macklem, Melissa ("D") Bittinger, and Terry Colgan have indicated they will be willing to run.

The committee's report was accepted unanimously.

(20) NEW BUSINESS

Mike Curtis moved that any revenues from Comcast be returned to subscribers. This was seconded by Jeff Politis.

Ron Ozer: Don't understand motion.

Mike: Why should village get revenue from TV?

Steven Threefoot: Would you prefer that we negotiate for zero fees?

Mike: Yes. I withdraw my previous motion and move that Steven Threefoot be instructed to negotiate with Comcast for zero pass-through fees. Christine Demsey seconded this motion.

Aaron: Comcast is paying access to town. We are giving Comcast something. Fee on Comcast customer's bills is 90 cents a month.

Denis O'Regan: how do I know if I won't get charged?

Steven: It's is a line item on your bill. This is not a tax; it is a \$4,000 fee for wear and tear. We only get the fees we collect. It is a pass through, from consumer to the Village.

Jeff Politis calls the question. The motion is defeated in a voice vote.

Lynda Kolski: what is status of Gateway? What are ribbons near intersection of Harvey and Marsh?

Steven: Harvey Road is way off center. The ribbons mark state R.O.W. The proposed site of the gateways will be near Bob Lockerman's leasehold, 30 foot down Harvey Road on State land.

Rodney Jester noted that Georgist classes are being offered.

Steven Threefoot noted that Cecilia Vore will organize group to celebrate addition to Sherwood Forest. If you are interested, please contact Cecilia, who will invite state and county representatives.

Denis O'Regan: Arden Craft Shop Museum report? No, part of Archives.

Jeff: Don't they have a board? Steven: yes. Don't they report to us? Steven: No.

Ruth Penella: concern with Asplunth, Conectiv tree cutting. Who do we call?

Steven: I will talk to Ardentown and report back.

Ruth Bean: Great refreshments! Applause for Audit Committee.

Charlie Robinson: Any attempt to keep storm drains open? Two I see on Millers are clogged. Sue: Plowing has been done four times but individual leaseholders are responsible for drains; not the folks plowing.

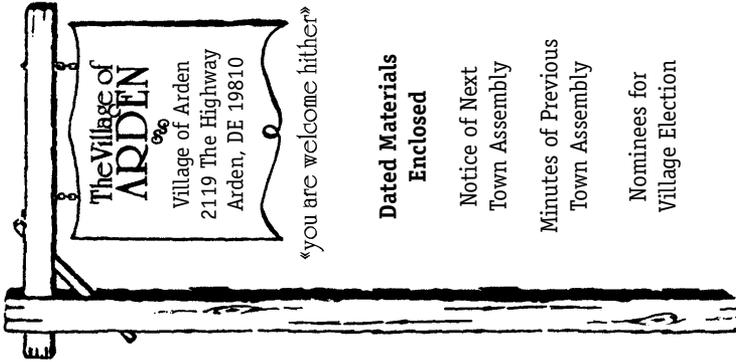
(21) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,



Danny N. Schweers, Secretary



**Dated Materials
Enclosed**

Notice of Next
Town Assembly

Minutes of Previous
Town Assembly

Nominees for
Village Election