

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden (uncorrected)

Monday, September 25, 2006

Gild Hall – Arden, Delaware

81 residents were in attendance, as shown below. 45 of these attended the last meeting. 12 people who attended the last meeting did not attend this meeting. In recent years, attendance at September meetings was 65 in 2005, 176 in 2004, 65 in 2003, 61 in 2002, 43 in 2001, 46 in 2000, 65 in 1999, 87 in 1998, 56 in 1997, 46 in 1996, and 54 in 1995.

Lou Aumack
Beverly S. Barnett
Ruth Bean
Samuel "Lou" Bean
Steve Blades
Jennifer Borders
Walter T. Borders
Lizzie Broadbent
Walter Broadbent
Dale Brumbaugh
Alan Burslem
Maria Burslem
Dawn Chang
Terry Ann Colgan
Mike Curtis
Alton Dahl
Cynthia Dewick
Ellen Dolmetsch
Dorinda Dove
Alida Fish
Phil "Alive & Well" Fisher
David Gerbec
Gace Glenn
Nancy Glenn
Willard Glenn
Aaron Hamburger
Sally Hamburger
Lester Hendrix
Virginia Henry
Elaine Hickey
Heidi Hoegger
Susan Horning
Milton Isaacs

Rodney Jester
Harold Kalmus
June Kleban
Lynda Kolski
Eliot Levin
Matthew Lo
Mary Marconi
Connee Wright McKinney
Burley R. Melton
Helga Melton
David Michelson
Mary Murphy
Megan Murphy
Betty O'Regan
Ron Ozer
Jeffrey Politis
Alfred Pompper, Jr.
Bill Press
David Quinton
Annie Renzetti
Peter A. Renzetti
Deborah M. Ricard
Hugh Roberts
Marge Roberts
Charles E. Robinson
Nanette Robinson
Warren Rosenkranz
Rick Rothrock
Sue Rothrock
Danny Schweers
Ray Seigfried
Sally Sharpe
Bruce Sheiker

Sadie Somerville
Lynne Svenning
Steve Tanzer
Bill Theis
Debbie Theis
Zach Theis
Alan Threefoot
Steven Threefoot
Elizabeth Varley
Mary Vernon
Cecilia Vore
Larry Walker
Laura Wallace
Jan Westerhouse
Tom Wheeler

New residents not yet voting were Rebecca & Ron Meick and Greg Morrison. Visiting were Ardencroft Chair Pat Toman, Linda Toman, Delaware State Senator Catherine L. Cloutier, District 5; Pat Morrison, Democratic Party nominee for State Senator, District 5 (and no relation to Greg); Carl Colantuono, Democratic Party nominee for State Legislator, District 7; and Sam Starr.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Steven Threefoot, Chair of the Town Assembly, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. The June 26 minutes, as published, were in error on page 8: last paragraph should read "March 2007".

1.1 RECOGNITION OF NEW AND DEPARTED RESIDENTS

Several new residents were recognized. This was the first meeting as voting members for Dawn Chang, Virginia Henry, Gary Michaelson, and Gary Quinton. Other residents, here less than six months, were recognized: Greg Morrison (who moved here in June with his wife, Mary, and children), and Ron and Rebecca Meick.

A moment of silence was offered for Steve Smith, who recently died.

1.2 RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Pat Morrison, candidate for State Senator District 5. An Ardencroft resident, Pat has worked with Delaware families and women for many years. She has degrees from the University of Delaware in psychology and sociology. Hers is a blended family, and she was a single parent for nine years. If elected, she will address electric deregulation, safer streets, cleaner environment, enforcing the Coastal Zone Act, privacy of citizens, and health care.

Carl Colantuono, candidate, State Legislative District 7. This is Carl's third attempt to unseat incumbent Wayne Smith. He has been a Radnor Green resident for thirty years, with two daughters. He is concerned with protecting neighborhood and has served or is serving on the Council of Neighborhoods and his neighborhood association. His campaign is about fairness and representation, crime, Coastal Zone Act, protecting the environment, opposing a prison on Darley Road, health care, safe air and water, and getting bills out of committee.

Cathy Cloutier, incumbent, State Senator District 5. Cathy encouraged residents to call her and visit her website. She congratulated Arden on its exemplary recycling. Said the *News Journal* was on target today about ethanol plant in Claymont. Said *News Journal* mistaken about her opposition to Coastal Zone Act. She hopes to keep the campaign positive. She is available to talk every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., at Sweeney's.

1.3 COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHAIR

Steven encouraged everyone to come to the Bow-Wow Ball, which will benefit Habitat for Humanity's efforts in New Orleans and Gulf area. Steven, a New Orleans native, said you can still drive 40 blocks in New Orleans, turn right, drive another 40 blocks, and see nothing but abandoned houses stripped and emptied. Connee McKinney says the Bow-Wow Ball will honor the dogs of Arden and include a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, dog collars, and hats. As she sat down, Connee was warmly applauded for her fund-raising efforts.

Steven has received an e-mail from Dick Moyer, a neighbor of ours who lives in Buckingham Heights. He is concerned that Sherwood Forest and Arden Woods may become dumping grounds for yard waste, especially since yard waste can no longer go to Cherry Island as of January 1.

Claymont Renaissance is still going strong.

EPA report on stormwater drainage: New Castle County needs to better separate stormwater from domestic waste.

Delaware Sign Law: Violators will get letter, perhaps \$25 violation, for illegal signs in R.O.W. Phil Fisher says campaign signs behind telephone pole line are OK. Bev Barnett said that signs nailed to telephone poles are dangerous to workers climbing poles in storms.

T-Mobile is gone; they will no longer seek an antenna here.

The TV cable franchise agreements are nearly complete for Verizon and Comcast, giving both equal terms. We may have a special town meeting to discuss and approve contract. [We did on December 11.]

DEMA (Delaware Emergency Management Association) Homeland Security notices continue to arrive. Steven Cohen, Ardentown Chair, is working on contingency plans with surrounding governmental agencies.

At a recent DLLG (Delaware League of Local Governments) meeting, Steven learned of efforts to restore Municipal Street Aid to previous levels. Also, there is a problem with small towns confronting statewide mandatory recycling with no state funding.

FEMA Flood Insurance: Two Arden leaseholds are still in flood plain. Without the federal insurance, which can be had at any time if the Village opts in, the property cannot be mortgaged.

2. TRUSTEES REPORT

Aaron Hamburger made the following report:

Over the summer, the Trustees concentrated on working with the Community Planning Committee in developing the Multiple Domiciles Proposal which will be acted on at tonight's Town Assembly.

Trustees' Report: Receipts and Bank Balances as of September 25, 2006

Checking/Savings

ARDEN BUILDING & LOAN - TRUSTEE	\$168,602.51
TRUSTEES - WILMINGTON TRUST	311,356.34
VANGUARD	
FUND 30	6,429.02
FUND 33	7,703.44
MSA - FUND 50	<u>24,157.42</u>
Total VANGUARD	<u>38,289.88</u>
Total Checking/Savings	518,248.73
Accounts Receivable: Land Rent	<u>12,669.93</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	12,669.93
TOTAL ASSETS	530,918.66

Fund Balance - BWVC	35,813.00
Fund Balance - Memorial Garden	6,462.00
Fund Balance - Municipal Street Aid Fund	24,157.42

Trustee Quarterly Report, April 1 through September 25, 2006

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Income		
BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER	3,034.50	
DONATIONS	400.00	
Interest—Trustees Checking Acct.	82.17	
INVESTMENT INCOME	8,774.55	
LAND RENT	124,601.71	444,000.00
LAND RENT FINANCE CHARGE	641.87	
MEADOW LANE ACCESS	353.19	699.00
MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS	2,295.00	2,000.00
RIGHTS-OF-WAY	0.00	<u>15,000.00</u>
Uncategorized Income	<u>311.43</u>	
Total Income	140,494.42	461,699.00
Expense		
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	87.08	300.00
ARCHIVES	352.79	1,000.00
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	0.00	50.00
BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER COMMITTEE ..	1,368.20	15,000.00
CIVIC	44,683.70	83,000.00
COMMUNITY PLANNING	0.00	1,000.00
CONTINGENCIES	0.00	2,000.00
CONTRIBUTIONS	3,350.00	5,120.00
GILD HALL RENTAL	1,250.00	1,250.00
GRANT EXPENSE	417.98	
LOAN PAYABLE	8,089.92	16,200.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENCE	100.00	
PLAYGROUND	228.02	1,800.00
REGISTRATION	196.94	700.00
SAFETY	1,200.00	5,400.00
Special Ardencroft Parkland Acquisition ..	5,000.00	5,000.00
TAXES	180.58	277,711.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.	1,487.50	3,250.00
TOWN BOOKEEPING SERVICE Gross Wages ..	1,343.00	2,936.00
TOWN SECRETARY	3,268.00	7,230.00
TRUSTEE ADMINISTRATIVE	31,331.94	55,026.00
MEMORIAL GARDEN	<u>3,792.99</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Expense	107,728.64	487,973.00
Net Ordinary Income	<u>32,765.78</u>	<u>-26,274.00</u>
Net Income	32,765.78	-26,274.00

The Buckingham Green suit continues to be stuck in the remedy phase.

The forest encroachment issue on the Ponte leasehold, discussed at Town Assembly some years ago, has been satisfactorily resolved.

Since the June Town Assembly, there have been five leasehold transfers.

You have the Quarterly Financial Report for the Village of Arden and the Arden Trust. You'll note that the Village is loaded with cash. This is only a short-term condition as later this week we will pay our County and School District property tax bills totaling about \$300,000.

3. ASSESSORS REPORT TO REFERENDUM

Steven Threefoot asked if there was an alternative report. None. Therefore, the June Assessors' report moves to referendum.

4. MOTION ON MULTIPLE DOMICILES AS PROPOSED

Steven asked that the rules be suspended to consider this motion. (By the end of the discussion, a much-reduced version of this motion was approved.)

Terry Colgan, chair of Arden Community Planning Committee, began the discussion by noting that it has been a year now since we began considering this issue to encourage economic diversity in the Village. The Trustees first made this proposal and, after four public discussions, the Community Planning Committee is unanimous in support of the proposal as it has evolved after a year of resident's comments.

MOVED: That the following "Proposal On Multiple Domiciles" be sent to referendum at the earliest date set by the Registration Committee.

Whereas, the Village of Arden has always been a mixed housing community. We have single-family residences, apartments and cottages for rent, and spaces for home occupations. This helps to maintain economic diversity in the Village as rental housing allows people of modest means to live in Arden. It provides housing when needed for the elderly and/or their caregivers. We are also able to attract people who want to live in an active, vibrant community as well as artists, crafters and other creative people to continue the arts and crafts tradition in the Ardens.

Whereas, over the last 30 years, Arden has lost about one-third (21 units) of its rental domiciles (auxiliary living units) due to use of these spaces for other purposes by the leaseholder and destruction of some units by decay or fire.

Whereas, it is essential for the make-up of the Village to maintain Arden as a mixed housing community with a balanced number of rental domicile living units. We want to both preserve the existing multiple domiciles and allow for an increase in the number of such units to meet the needs of individual leaseholders.

Now, therefore, the Village of Arden endorses the following actions:

- A. Achieve legally non-conforming status from the New Castle County Department of Land Use for the leaseholds with existing multiple domiciles listed in Schedule A and who have been paying additional land rent for this privilege.
- B. Achieve legally non-conforming status from the New Castle County Department of Land Use for those leaseholds whose extra domicile has been inactive due to the County's six-month occupancy rule.
- C. Permit any resident single domicile leaseholder to add one domicile, if desired, under the following conditions:
 1. The new domicile is limited to a maximum of 700 square feet in the existing house structure.
 2. A leasehold with dedicated space larger than 300 square feet for a home occupation cannot add a new domicile. However, existing dedicated space for a home occupation can be fully or partially converted to a permitted new domicile up to a maximum of 700 square feet.
 3. Space greater than 300 square feet for a home occupation on the leasehold cannot be added once a new domicile is constructed.
 4. Improvements on the lot to support the new domicile such as driveways, parking spaces and the like must be made of water permeable materials to limit additional water run-off from the lot.
 5. Any new domicile, constructed after implementation of this Multiple Domicile Proposal, can only be maintained as an extra domicile so long as the leaseholder is a resident on the leasehold.
 6. If the privilege is granted to every eligible leaseholder to add an extra domicile, if desired, then the extra land rent currently assessed for this special privilege may be eliminated. However, additional land rent may still be assessed on leaseholds with more than one extra domicile and on leaseholds whose extra domicile is an auxiliary structure.
- D. Community Planning Committee and the Trustees will approach the New Castle County Department of Land Use to initiate a pilot program in the Village to educate leaseholders about LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for developing sustainable buildings and EnergyStar appliances (superior energy efficiency materials and appliances) and encourage leaseholders to use energy-efficient materials, equipment and layouts.
- E. The mechanism for installing a new domicile and achieving legal non-conforming status must be worked out with the New Castle County Department of Land Use following adoption of this proposal by the Arden Town Assembly and approval of this proposal in a referendum vote by the residents of the Village of Arden.

- F. Any agreement concluded with the New Castle County Department of Land Use relating to this Multiple Domicile Proposal must be submitted to Arden's Town Assembly for review and approval before implementation.

Elizabeth seconded this motion. Steven suggested that the Town Assembly limit discussion to 45-minutes.

Alton Dahl: What County zoning regulations govern construction of new domiciles? Terry: Normal rules. Alton: Permeable ground cover? That's new, not part of County regulations.

Steven: The Ardens are the only municipalities governed by NCCo rules, so they are willing to work with us.

Rodney Jester: A yes, B maybe, C no. We have 26 domiciles not in compliance with 1954 zoning. Let's fix 1954 problems and then extend privilege of multiple domiciles to others.

Jeffrey Politis: What is this about? Terry: Tonight we vote whether to go to referendum or not. If the referendum is approved, we will go before the County. Jeffrey: Why do you need authorization to negotiate? Terry: we feel we need consensus to move forward.

Sue Rothrock: Here, new domicile has to be part of existing domicile, but many grandfathered extra domiciles are free-standing. Terry: we found resistance to new free-standing structures and difficulty limiting it by size of leasehold. Our first concern is to grandfather the existing multiple domiciles. Sue: We should do grandfathering first, new domiciles later. Terry: Our committee feels strongly otherwise.

Bill Press: If this motion should pass, what change would average resident see? Terry: Some land rents will go up. Bill: How will this affect sales? Terry: Must be live-in landlords; multiple domiciles cannot be owned by absentee landlords.

Steve Tanzer: Support anything to make Arden more economically diverse. Does this do much? Terry: Will affect existing extra domiciles; that will make a big difference if everyone took advantage of this.

Lynda Kolski: Some people are not familiar with the grandfathering and non-conformity; that this is a mistake that needs to be remedied. Aaron Hamburger: When NCCo zoning went into effect in 1954, we had about 60 extra domiciles on 45 or so leaseholds, but the Ardens were zoned single-domicile. Impression was that the multiple domiciles were grandfathered. Sometime in 1990s, we discovered that NCCo had not grandfathered these properties, meaning property is not protected in case of fire: if a fire destroys extra domicile, legally it could not be rebuilt. That's bad for town. Also, if you haven't rented the extra domicile for six months, you lose ability under NCCo rules. This would allow folks to set up extra domiciles at any time.

Lynda Kolski: we need to correct this error. Then we can look at adding new domiciles.

Bill Theis: Past problem from 1954 and extra domiciles built since then needs to be dealt with now, but future extra domiciles can be dealt with later, separately.

Jeff Politis: Against motion because it groups two issues together. Also would like to allow separate structures.

Mary Vernon: Some of us went through this time-consuming process, why don't others go through it? Terry: I went through process and was turned down; took two years to transfer a leasehold. We are no so much interested in fairness as doing something beneficial to village.

Zach Theis: How did you come up with 700 square feet? Terry: Home occupation is allowed 1,000. Aaron: 700 came out of examination of existing domiciles, most are 300 to 600 sq.ft. Zach: what is rationale of disallowing both home business and extra domicile? Terry: trying to moderate impermeable cover.

Ron Ozer: Item C6, personally disagree that extra land rent be eliminated.

Walter Borders: Sympathetic to intent of motion but not details of this motion, which tries to cover too many options, and is too architecturally limiting.

Betty O'Regan: against motion; too many things questionable.

Aaron Hamburger: for motion; this is our opportunity to deal with a host of issues now. NCCo is interested now and may not be later on. Why separate these issues now when we can deal with them all now? This gives us ability to negotiate from a strong position. Implementation will require approval of Town Assembly.

Sue Rothrock: We pay a cost per household for trash, roads.

Ray Seigfried: This is a county, state and national issue. NCCo is looking at many things. There are about 1,000 of these structures county-wide. Let's be reflective, act later. Against motion.

Zach Theis: Against motion; we are rushing into solution to solve future problem with no time pressure. I am in favor of first two items.

Elizabeth Varley: Speaking for the motion. We've been discussing this for a year; this is hardly being rushed. A great deal of care and consideration has gone into this.

Charles Robinson: Precipitous to act now. Are they aware that NCCo is going out to civic associations discussing these. Steven: NCCo says we are the lead in this process. Terry: Village will not bear any leaseholder fees with this.

Mary Marconi: Am for additional domiciles, and appreciate work of committee. Who will enforce these provisions? Terry: new construction will require a building permit, something existing procedures would cover.

Allan Threefoot: County looking to us? Then we should take future domiciles as a separate issue. Against motion as it is.

Rick Rothrock: Appreciate hard work. Appears clear that question of fairness has been raised. Creates additional classes of leaseholders,

people who have temporary right to multiple domiciles. A more divided system. Against motion.

Terry Colgan: Think about how you may be able to use the flexibility built in to this motion.

Question called:

Voice vote: *NOs* seem to have it.

Vote by a show of hands: 20 for, 46 against.

4.1 ALTERNATIVE MOTION

Alton Dahl: Moves that previous motion be accepted with the following changes, changes which he believes embrace the objections just heard in discussion:

(a) Drop the "MOVED" paragraph; that is, don't send the motion to referendum but approve it tonight.

(b) That paragraph 4 read, "Therefore, the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden authorizes the Trustees and the Community Planning Committee to negotiate with New Castle County to:"

(c) That paragraphs C, D, E and F be dropped.

Elizabeth Varley: seconds the motion.

Zach Theis offers a friendly amendment: to keep point F in this motion. Alton and Elizabeth agree to amendment.

Cynthia Dewick: Who will pay for zoning changes? Steven Threefoot: costs more to process each application than County makes. County probably would not charge anything; this will probably be one application to County. That will have to be negotiated.

Connee McKinney: Not fair post-1954 extra domiciles be legalized.

Ray Seigfried. Who will go to County? Alton: Trustees and Community Planning will, as stated in section F.

Rodney Jester: How many extra domiciles have not been rented for six months? Alton: don't know. Steven: we will get clarification.

Charlie Robinson: Proposes friendly amendment, delete end of 2nd sentence, 3rd paragraph: "and allow for an increase in the number of such units to meet the needs of individual leaseholders." Alton and Elizabeth decline.

Charlie Robinson: Proposes amendment to send this to referendum. Rodney Jester seconded.

Alton: let's not put a process in place now; later, when it comes back.

Bev Barnett: We listen to everyone; don't need a referendum.

Elizabeth Varley: Ditto.

Amendment defeated.

Question called.

Motion easily passes by voice vote. The approved motion reads as follows:

MOTION ON MULTIPLE DOMICILES AS APPROVED

Whereas, the Village of Arden has always been a mixed housing community. We have single-family residences, apartments and cottages for rent, and spaces for home occupations. This helps to maintain economic diversity in the Village as rental housing allows people of modest means to live in Arden. It provides housing when needed for the elderly and/or their caregivers. We are also able to attract people who want to live in an active, vibrant community as well as artists, crafters and other creative people to continue the arts and crafts tradition in the Ardens.

Whereas, over the last 30 years, Arden has lost about one-third (21 units) of its rental domiciles (auxiliary living units) due to use of these spaces for other purposes by the leaseholder and destruction of some units by decay or fire.

Whereas, it is essential for the make-up of the Village to maintain Arden as a mixed housing community with a balanced number of rental domicile living units. We want to preserve the existing multiple domiciles and allow for an increase in the number of such units to meet the needs of individual leaseholders..

Therefore, the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden authorizes the Trustees and the Community Planning Committee to negotiate with New Castle County to:

- A. Achieve legally non-conforming status from the New Castle County Department of Land Use for the leaseholds with existing multiple domiciles listed in Schedule A and who have been paying additional land rent for this privilege.
- B. Achieve legally non-conforming status from the New Castle County Department of Land Use for those leaseholds whose extra domicile has been inactive due to the County's six-month occupancy rule.
- C. Any agreement concluded with the New Castle County Department of Land Use relating to this Multiple Domicile Proposal must be submitted to Arden's Town Assembly for review and approval before implementation.

5. SAFETY COMMITTEE

Bill Theis made the following report.

Arden has become the late-night meeting spot for many young people. The primary locations for these gatherings are the Petit Green, Sherwood (Buzz Ware) Green and the Gild Hall parking lot. Activities include suspected drug use and transfers, drinking and loitering. Participants include some town residents, but most are from out of town. License numbers, make and model of the vehicles and their occupants have been recorded and turned over to the police. License plates include vehicles from Pa., De., Md., La., and Alabama.

Conversations with police have identified one sex offender and several with bench warrants. Obviously, the type of activity these late night visitors bring is not acceptable and more vigilance by the residents to identify suspicious vehicles and people is needed.

The police have been called on three occasions with excellent response. Both occurrences were at the Buzz and the police warned all participants not to return. In one case someone was taken into custody.

Additionally, some parking-on-right-of-way issues were addressed.

The recent incidents of break-ins, property theft and motor vehicle thefts are being investigated by both County and State Police forces. Some progress has been made and future action is anticipated.

In your daily activities in town, if you see suspicious activity, either call the police non-emergency number, 573-2800, or record the time, date, make and model of the vehicle, license number and a description of those involved and get the information to Denis O'Regan or Bill Theis. If a crime were to occur in the Village near that time, we will then have a starting point for an investigation by the police.

Steve Tanzer: Is Town Watch information passed on the police? We saw kids drag picnic table to back of BWVC. Got names. Willard tells me table has reappeared.

Betty O'Regan, Town Watch Coordinator: never got a report on that incident; if I had, I would have passed on the information.

Jeff Politis: the "WALK" light on Harvey Road changes too quickly.

Pete Renzetti: Some speed-limit signs on Harvey Road have disappeared. When will they be replaced? Also, want to see glowing speed indicator set up from time to time on Harvey Road.

Terry Colgan: Another teen hangout is Weave Shop parking lot. Don't recognize kids.

Lynda Kolski: Kids are sometimes behind Weave Shop, no lights.
Bill: Call police at 573-2800.

Rodney Jester: Does Safety Committee get police reports? Bill: No.

Betty O'Regan: Town Watch patrols can be made any time. Call 573-2800 if you see something suspicious, not me. In an emergency, call 911. We have had all sorts of patrols recently including a patrol on horseback by Annie and Pete Renzetti; a series of bicycle patrols by Jack Dolmetsch and Danny Schweers; and the Insomniac Patrol by the sleepless.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

6. REGISTRATION

Cecilia Vore, Committee Chair, made the following report:

The Registration Committee met Sept. 14. Cecilia Vore was re-elected committee chair. The committee will meet Sunday, Oct. 1 at 1:00 p.m. to update the voter list.

Ballots for the annual Budget Referendum and Assessors election will be mailed to all eligible voters on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The deadline for

returning ballots will be Thursday, November 2. An eligible voter is any resident 18 years or older who has lived in Arden for six months or more. Ballots will be counted on Thursday evening, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Buzz Ware Village Center. Residents are invited to observe the vote count and may be asked to assist. Results will be posted on the bulletin boards Friday, November 3, and will also be posted at TheArdens.com website.

The Registration Committee and its helpers have distributed five Welcome Packets since the March, 2006, town meeting. A new batch of packets is currently being distributed. If you are new to the community and have not received a Welcome Packet, you can get one tonight.

Following Cecilia's report, Elizabeth Varley, Advisory Chair, announced 12 nominees for Board of Assessors: Walter Borders, Alton Dahl, Harold Kalmus, Mary Marconi, Denis O'Regan, Jeff Politis, Gary Quinton, Ray Seigfried, Steve Tanis, Alan Threefoot, Larry Walker, and Tom Wheeler. From the floor, Charles Robinson agreed to be a nominee. One more nominee is needed. [Brook Bovard later agreed to be a nominee, was elected as an Assessor, and was then elected by the Assessors as their chair.]

Lynda Kolski: Thanks to Registration Committee for dog-bone-shaped cookies plugging the Bow-Wow Ball this coming Saturday.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

7. PLAYGROUND

Larry Walker, Committee Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Since the last Town Meeting, the required three Playground Equipment Inspections were made, and the equipment was adult tested for safety. The August Inspection was made just before the Arden Fair to ensure the safety of the equipment for the anticipated heavy use on Fair day. All equipment appears to be in good and safe condition.

The Playground Committee had been using a local supplier for the playground wood chips, but the supplier no longer has the high-quality chips we like. Presently, the only playground chips the supplier has are a manufactured trademarked product that is twice as expensive as what the Committee has been using. We explored alternate suppliers so that we can stay within our Budget, but were unsuccessful. This week we will begin to install the manufactured product under the playground equipment on the Village Green.

Normally over the summer, the main effort has been the addition of wood chips under the playground equipment. Over time, the wood chips break down, decay, and are kicked away, but keeping a thick bed of chips is the best way to provide a cushion for a child who accidentally falls. According to the national statistics on playground safety, over 80% of all playground injuries are the result of falls from equipment. A soft landing surface makes a great difference in reducing injuries. Because of our

efforts in previous years, there is still a significant cushion of wood chips under all equipment, so safety has not been compromised.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

8. FOREST COMMITTEE

No report. They are asked to please consider Dick Moyer's e-mail about the danger of our forests becoming dumping grounds.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Ruth Bean reported that the map of the Memorial Garden is being revised with 24 new grave sites. Some damage to plantings in last storm, perhaps not permanent.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

10. CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sue Rothrock made the following report.

Residents should double bag their yard waste if need be, using the recyclable bags provided by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. Bellevue State Park mulches trees after Christmas. Hazardous Waste Day is first Saturday in November at Farley Stadium. The state's Merchandise Store, with recycled electronics, is open now.

R.O.W.s should be kept clear. Don't place rocks on right-of-way next to your leasehold; keep intersections clear.

Town does not pick up leaves from R.O.W.; that is the responsibility of the leaseholder. Please keep storm drains clear. When draining a swimming pool, DNREC recommends letting the water sit in pool for several days to let the chemicals deteriorate, then to drain the pool onto your lawn, not into the gutter, road, or your neighbor's leasehold.

Alton Dahl: Has the Civic Committee considered following Ardentown's example for yard waste by setting up a recycling site for yard waste? Sue: Yes. Problem is one of maintenance. Leaves need to be turned and trash kept out. Also, we don't have an obvious spot to put such a facility. Also, we can use the Ardentown bins.

Lynda Kolski: Suggests having a Mulch Day, bring a mulcher in.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

11. BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER

Willard Glenn made the following report:

Here is the latest on the Buzz. There is a lot to report so I will try to keep it brief while informative at the same time. I am glad to tell you that the YMCA Giant Step Program is back at the Buzz using Room Two. They occupy the building from 8:30 in the morning to about 1:30 in the afternoon. We are happy to have them back in our rental base even though it is only for half a day.

The Peddlers and Potions event at the Buzz during the Arden Fair was a huge success. We had 28 vendors and we expect most will return for the next Fair. This was a financial shot for the Buzz, raising roughly \$3,400. This was quite an undertaking and a learning experience for this committee. We found that the \$2.00 admission at the front door was no problem for people. Some paid the fee just to use the bathroom. The accounting at the door showed that we had in excess of 600 people thru the building that day. 20 of those used the facilities. We are proud that our two fund-raisers this year brought in more than \$5,000.

We are currently seeking bids on a new roof for the Buzz. We have one in hand and are seeking two more. We all know that bids can differ with product choices and the extent of roof damage not visible until it is exposed. I will keep the Village informed of our progress.

Our Building Manager and Scheduler, Bev Fleming, continues to do a great job handling inspections, scheduling rooms, and contact with the renters. Bev is your contact if you wish to use the building.

I hope you have had a chance to notice that the Buzz is relatively healthy with regards to the budget. We are paying our bills without being a burden to the Village. This is one of our main goals. We continue to strive for a safe and clean village center.

Sue Rothrock: When you rent the Buzz, please set out recycling bins.

Cecilia Vore: On Saturday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., the Wilmington Storytellers invite everyone to their "Tellabration" at the Buzz, part of an international storytelling event.

Jeffrey Politis: The Account Reconciliation at the bottom shows current liabilities. They should be labeled as assets, not liabilities.

Aaron Hamburger: The BWVC budget should require approval by Town Assembly, for March 2007 to March 2008.

Lynda Kolski: The AB&L asset of \$22,140 was raised at two auctions, but this amount is \$5,000 short of what we raised for roof repair. Where it went is a problem. What are plans? Glenn: it will be tough, but we hope to get it back by time project starts.

Alton Dahl: Congratulations on new renter.

Steven Threefoot: admires work on budget.

This committee's report was accepted unanimously.

12. BUDGET

Matthew Lo presented the projected budget for the next fiscal year as outlined on the following pages.

Aaron Hamburger: Moves to change increase of Secretary and Bookkeeper's salaries by 3%, not 2%, following state guidelines. Bev Barnett seconds the motion. Larry Walker asks that the increase be rounded so it is divisible by 12, in even dollars. The motion passed unanimously.

David Michelson: What are non-budget expenses? Those are

Projected Budget (Fiscal Year March 25, 2007–2008)

INCOME:	NOTES	(2007-2008) Projected	(2006-2007) Appropriated	(2005-2006) Actual	(2004-2005) Actual
Land Rent	1	488,000	444,000	384,613	376,650
Trail Renewal Grant	2	950		500	
Delaware Municipal Street Aid	3	18,000	18,000	18,987	23,180
Interest and other income (<i>details below</i>)	4	29,900	25,000	34,132	26,723
<i>Road Right of Way (R.O.W.)</i>		5,000	5,300	5,023	5,331
<i>Cable R.O.W.</i>		5,900	5,500	5,832	5,491
<i>Antenna R.O.W.</i>		5,300	4,900	5,111	4,914
<i>Meadow Lane Access</i>		700		684	
<i>Investment Income</i>		10,000	8,000	14,567	9,104
<i>Misc.</i>		3,000	1,300	2,915	1,883
SUB-TOTAL: INCOME		\$536,850	\$487,000	\$438,232	\$426,553
Reserve	5	116,451	110,751	143,334	197,802
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$653,301	\$597,751	\$581,566	\$624,355
NON-BUDGET EXPENSES					
Property Taxes: County	6	61,859	55,900	55,146	57,630
Property Taxes: School		248,632	222,705	222,045	199,305
Trustees Administration (<i>details below</i>)	7	55,616	54,176	41,095	58,802
<i>Audit</i>		5,500	5,500	6,100	
<i>Insurance</i>		11,000	10,000	10,247	
<i>Legal</i>		15,000	15,000	1,292	
<i>Operations and fees</i>		9,000	9,000	9,822	
<i>Office Rent</i>		2,436	2,316	2,220	
<i>Payroll Taxes</i>	7a	1,184	1,200	1,100	
<i>Salaries</i>		11,496	11,160	10,314	
Long Term Debt (Sherwood Forest Loan)	8	16,180	16,180	16,180	9,411
State Grant: Roads to Civic Committee	9	0	0	0	0
State Grant: Municipal Street Aid - Roads	10	18,000	18,000	18,987	23,180
State Grant: Trails Renewal	11	950		500	
SUB-TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES		\$401,237	\$366,961	\$353,953	\$348,328
BUDGET EXPENSES					
		2007-8 Proposed BUDGET	APPROPRIATED (2006-2007)	2005-2006 ACTUAL	2004-2005 ACTUAL
Advisory	12	300	300	182	16
Archives	13	1,440	1,000	1,000	1,482
Board of Assessors	14	50	50	187	50
Buzz Ware Village Cntr, Program/Admin	15a	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,005
Buzz Ware Village Cntr, Maintenance	15b	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Buzz Ware Village Cntr, Renovations	15c	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Buzz Ware Village Cntr, Roof Renovations	15d	0	6,000	6,000	6,000
Civic: Roads, Commons & Forests	16a	37,000	37,000	29,798	33,619
Civic: Trash and Special Pick-up	16b	46,500	42,500	40,791	40,201
Community Planning	17	1,600	1,000	0	33
Forest (new separate listing from Civic)	18	5,000	3,500	2,200	
Playground	19	2,000	1,800	1,761	1,770
Registration	20	1,000	700	840	349
Safety—General	21a	1,000	1,000	83	0
Town Watch Coordinator Fees	21b	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,451
Harvey Rd. Speed Enforcement	21c	2,000	2,000	0	0
Town Expenses					
Salary: Secretary	22a	6,780	6,648	6,456	6,264
Salary: Bookkeeping—Town	22b	2,760	2,700	2,640	2,532
Town Payroll Taxes	22c	983	850	899	
Salary: Town Admin. Expenses	22d	3,250	3,250	3,049	4,000
Donations: ACRA	22e	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,450
Donations: Arden Page	22f	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,450
Donations: Arden Library	22g	600	600	550	550
Donations: Fire Companies	22h	1,450	1,250	1,250	1,000
Donations: [Ardentown Parkland]	22i	0	5,000	0	0
Gild Hall Rental	22j	1,300	1,250	1,200	900
Contingencies	23	3,000	2,000	0	0
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES		\$129,913	\$134,798	\$113,186	\$113,122
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$531,150	\$501,759	\$467,139	\$461,450

Notes to FY 2007–2008 Projected Budget

INCOME:

1. Land Rent - Based on Assessor's report from June 2006 town meeting.
2. Trail Renewal Grant - From State
3. Delaware Municipal Street Aid - annual street aid.
4. Interest and other Income
5. Reserve - Estimated reserve at the end of FY2008; the estimated reserve at the end of FY2007 has been revised downward to \$110,751 (from \$157,000) as follows: The actual reserve at YE2006 as per the audit is \$143,334. From this figure deduct the budgeted deficit in operating expenses for 2006-2007, which is \$14,759. Further deduct other known budget overages for 2006-2007 which are \$17,824 for county and school taxes (from Connee McKinney). The estimated reserve at YE2008 is therefore \$110,751 plus the budgeted excess in operating expenses for 2007-2008 which is \$5,700, making the total estimated reserve at YE2008 \$116,451.

NON-BUDGET EXPENSES:

6. Property Taxes - Increase of \$31,886 over 2006-2007 budget. Note that actual taxes are approximately \$15,000 over the budgeted amount.
- 6a. County Taxes - Represents a 5% yearly increase over 2007
- 6b. School Taxes - 5% increase expected in May 2007 referendum .

NOTE: The New Castle County property and school taxes are grossed up to include rebates paid to qualifying leaseholders.

7. Trustees Administration - Increase of \$1,440 (Legal, at \$15,000, is high due to Buckingham Green lawsuit).
- 7a. Payroll taxes - \$1,184 (10.3% of payroll)
8. Sherwood Forest Loan - Purchase of Sherwood Forest property.
9. State Grants to Civic Committee - Eliminated from Budget.
10. Delaware Municipal Street Aid: Annual Street Aid - pass through expense.
11. Trails renewal Grant - pass through expense.

NON-BUDGET EXPENSES:

12. Advisory - no change.
13. Archives - Increase of \$440
14. Board of Assessors - No change.

15. Buzz Ware Village Center:
 - a. Program/Administration - Annual administration costs.
 - b. Maintenance - Annual maintenance costs.
 - c. Renovations - Miscellaneous renovations to building.
 - d. Roof Renovations - New roof accrual finished last year.
16. Civic
 - a. Roads/Commons - Combined into a single line item - funds can be shifted between the different accounts to accommodate unexpected expenses. Estimated funds are \$18,000 for roads; \$19,000 for commons;
 - b. Trash Collection/Special Trash Pickup - Combined into a single line item so funds can be shifted between the different accounts to accommodate unexpected expenses. Estimated funds are \$46,000 for Trash; \$500 for Special Pickup.
17. Community Planning - Increase of \$600 for printing costs.
18. Forests - new separate listing. Was part of Civic Committee.
19. Playground - Increase of 200 from last year.
20. Registration - Increase of 300 from last year.
21. Safety
 - a. General - No Change
 - b. Town Watch Coordinator - No change
 - c. Harvey Road Speed Enforcement - No change
22. Town Expenses
 - a. Secretary Salary - Approximate 2% increase. Salary is \$6,780. [Changed at meeting to 3%.]
 - b. Town Bookkeeping - Approximate 2% increase. Salary is \$2,760. [Changed at meeting to 3%.]
 - c. Town part of payroll taxes: 10.3% of payroll
 - d. Administrative expenses: \$3,250. This covers the Town phone (\$300), registration and travel for government meetings (\$250), official town receptions (\$300), office expenses (\$400), and legal expenses (\$2,000).
 - e. ACRA Donations - \$1,500
 - f. Arden Page Donations - \$1,500
 - g. Arden Library Donation - \$600
 - h. Fire Companies Donation - \$1,450 - breakdown as follows:
 - i. Claymont Fire Company - \$1,200
 - ii. Talleyville Fire Company - \$125
 - iii. Brandywine Hundred Fire Co. - \$125
- 22j. Gild Hall Rental - \$1,300
23. Contingency - Increase of 1,000.

expenses that are not adjustable, such as School and County taxes, therefore they cannot go to referendum.

Lynda Kolski: Why does Community Planning need \$600 for printing? Terry Colgan: to conduct a survey.

Lynda Kolski: Why is trash and special pick-up \$46,500? Steven Threefoot: This is a new contract, that includes an estimated mid-year increase. Matthew Lo: We had no increase for many years. Lynda Kolski: Aren't we getting

Year End 2008 Reserve Calculation

Actual Reserve at YE 2006:	\$143,334.00
Budgeted Deficit at YE 2007:	\$(14,759.00)
Increase in Trash at YE 2007:	\$ —
Increase in Taxes at YE 2007:	\$(17,824.00)
Less Trustees Roads 2007:	\$ —
Difference Income/Expense YE 2008:	<u>\$5,700.00</u>
Total Estimated Reserve YE 2008:	\$116,451.00

half the service at same price? Sue Rothrock: Waste Management was asking for \$60,000/year to continue twice-a-week service. This is much less. Steven Threefoot: Once a week collection does not mean half the trash is collected; Waste Management is still collecting the same amount of trash, but with half the pick ups.

The committee's report was accepted unanimously. Appreciation was expressed for the committee's work, followed by applause.

13. AUDIT. No report.

14. ARCHIVES

Sadie Somerville made the following report.

We convened and I am still chair. Since the beginning of the year through September 10, we have had about 120 visitors (who signed in) and volunteers contributed 154 hours. (Kudos to Debbie for counting them up!)

The Arden Craft Shop Museum celebrates its second anniversary in October. We will celebrate Remembrance Day on Sunday, October 8, 2:00–4:00 p.m., here at Gild Hall. The day will be in honor of Rosalie Schorr (long-time teacher at the Arden School), Estelle Frankel (renowned music teacher and violinist), and both their active families. Refreshments and finger food welcome. For details, contact Ruth Bean.

We have had several new acquisitions including a box of photos from Barbara Fenske and papers from Larry Schein.

Steve Tanzer: Where do you get the Remembrance Day names? Sadie: from Ruth Bean and from the Archives Committee.

15. ARDEN CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM

Alton Dahl reported that all is going well with the Museum. Mary McKean, a long-time resident of one of the five apartments in the building, is moving. The upcoming annual meeting is the last Sunday in

October, and has been advertised in the *Arden Page*. All here are invited.

16. ADVISORY - No report.
17. OLD BUSINESS - none.
18. NEW BUSINESS - none.
19. GOOD AND WELFARE - no reports.
20. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Danny Schweers, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danny Schweers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "S".