

INSIDE: March 28, 2011 Meeting Minutes

All Village of Arden
residents are encouraged
to attend the next

Town Meeting

**Monday, June 27, 2011
7:30 p.m. - Gild Hall
2119 The Highway
Arden, Delaware**

AGENDA ITEMS WILL INCLUDE:

1. Audit Report
2. Annual Motions for establishing accounts and check signing
3. Board of Assessors' Report
4. 2nd reading of proposed Ordinance 15 on absentee voting
5. Community Planning proposal for Registration of vacant buildings
6. Forest Committee - Risk factors for forest trees in striking distance of leasehold houses

All are welcome hither

Please note:

Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote if they have resided in the Village of Arden six months prior to the Meeting and are 18 years of age, or older.

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

Monday, March 28, 2011

Gild Hall - Arden, DE

56 attendees:

Sally Sharp	Cecilia Vore
Steven Threefoot	Cynthia Dewick
Ed Rohrbach	Barbara Macklem
Steven Blades	Warren Rosenkranz
David Michelson	Roger Garrison
Ruth Bean	Sadie Somerville
Mike Curtis	Charles Robinson
Connie McKinney	Mary Murphy
Gary E. Quinton	Maria Burslem
Marianne Cinaglia	Allan Burslem
Lisa Mullinax	Betty O'Regan
Boff Whalley (NV)	Denis O'Regan
Mickey Fitzharris	Frank Jost (NV)
Beth Stevenson	Elaine Hickey
Carol Larson	Larry Walker
Elizabeth Varley	Danny Schweers
Jan Westerhouse	Ray Seigfried
Tom Wheeler	Jane Claney
Larry Strange	Dave Claney
Hugh Roberts	Jonathan Claney
Vanessa Capriglione (NV)	David Gerbec
Caprice Haeveler (NV)	Katherine A. Threefoot
Emily Solecki (NV)	Debbie Ricard
Anthony Nesrich (NV)	Rodney Jester
Linnell Truchon (NV)	Cookie Ohlson
Bill Theis	Katrina Streiff
Pam Politis	Barbara Henry
Laura Wallace	Greg Gagliano (NV)

To save postage, Arden Minutes & Agenda are addressed to one member of each household. If you do not wish to share this information among those residing at your leasehold, please contact registration@theardens.com and we will arrange separate mailings.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steven Threefoot called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The following omission from the January Minutes was noted: One of the financial statements from the Treasurer's Report was attached twice while one was omitted entirely. To correct this, the omitted financial statement will be attached to the March Town Meeting Minutes. (See Attached) The Minutes of the January 24, 2011 Town Meeting were approved as corrected.

3.0 ELECTION of Officers and Standing Committees

The Registration Committee distributed the election ballots. Chair Cecilia Vore announced the voting policy and procedure, that voting would take place throughout the meeting with ballots being given to those arriving late, and voting would end at the close of the Town Meeting.

4.0 NEW RESIDENTS – None

5.0 RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTED

- *Lou Bean*, of whom a lot of Ardenites have fond memories, worked very hard for the community for many years.
- *Robert Roberts*, Hugh Roberts' brother, who grew up in Arden and lived in Ardentown.
- *John O'Toole*
- *Jeff Shaw*, Susan Shaw's son.
- *Maria Thaddeus*
- *Joshua Lipstein*, Don Lipstein's son.

6.0 VISITORS

Five Temple University students, who recently read "Utopia" and are learning about modern day utopian societies, are doing a project on Arden and are here to see what our Town Meetings are like.

Gabe McKinney and his brother are attending the meeting as part of a Boy Scout assignment.

Greg Gagliano will be helping the Forest Committee with the project to remove invasive plants and introduce diversified native plants at Marsh & Millers Roads.

Frank Jost, from Ardencroft, came to tell the Assembly about the excellent opportunity to have a major portion of home energy efficiency improvements rebated through Delaware's Sustainable Energy Utility. The Ardens applied for a grant for the Gild Hall, the Buzz Ware Village Center, Craft Shop/Museum, the Candlelight Theater, and for all 500 households in the three Ardens. Residents would have to get an energy audit done by one of the 52 firms listed on the website under Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU). They will do a beacon home energy advisor test, infrared lighting detection for leakage, and energy efficiency ratings of your lighting, heat, and air conditioning. They will then give you a report.

From that report you will pick something that gives you at least a 20% energy savings in order to receive a rebate. For a 20% energy savings the SEU will rebate 50% of the cost up to \$6,000 and Arden will rebate another 35%. There are a lot of complexities to the formula. Twenty–seven households out of 500 have already expressed an interest. Frank distributed the form to fill out in order to get on the mailing list for updates and notifications of meetings. The form is also available on the website. The bottom line: you can get up to 85% of energy improvements paid for by the government from the American Recovery & Reimbursement Act.

Questions – None

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS

RECORD OF DECISION

The Federal Aviation Administration has notified us that they have released the Record of Decision on the final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Capacity Enhancement Program at Philadelphia International Airport. Hard-copies are available at Claymont and Brandywine Hundred Libraries. Electronic versions are on the Project's and FAA's websites. Those website urls will be placed on our website.

8.0 TRUSTEES' REPORT – Connee McKinney

The Trustees have several items to report tonight:

Finances: We have copies of the quarterly financial report available tonight. (See Attached) The 2011 land rent is coming in and was due March 25 when the new fiscal year begins. The total land rent received as of March 24 is \$428,497.87. The total to be collected is \$592,137.20. We continue to adjust the wording on our land rent detail letter that accompanies the land rent bill so that our leaseholders have a clearer understanding of the details that make up the rent due. We appreciate the responses that we have received about how to improve it. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our assistant Julia McNeil (475-7980 or email Trustees.of.Arden@gmail.com).

Lease Transfers: There have been no lease transfers since January Town Meeting.

Leaseholders: Please note that applications for New Castle County Senior School Tax Rebates are due June 1, 2011. To qualify, you must be age 65 or older at the beginning of the County tax year and the lot must be your principal residence. You must bring a copy of your driver's license and birth certificate the first time that you apply. The form is very easy to fill out; however, I would recommend that you call for assistance at New Castle County Land Use [\(302\) 395-5520](tel:3023955520) before you apply. The form is on the Land Use website: nccde.org/landuse/taxemptions.

Trustee Outreach: We will be having our second group Trustees/Directors meeting in May or June to discuss matters of mutual interest and concerns in Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft. Also, we have had several inquires about creating new Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) in Arden. We have asked New Castle County Land Use about the latest New Castle County information on granting new ADUs. When New Castle County initiated the new ADU policy, the County ordinance capped permission for new ADUs to a maximum of 200 units throughout the

County. Before the Trustees go any further with discussions about new ADUs in Arden, we will request that the County reply to us about their current policy and information in writing.

Respectfully submitted,

Connee McKinney, Arden Trustee

Questions:

Hugh Roberts – Do you have to reapply for the Senior rebate every year?

Connee - No

Trustees' Report Accepted.

9.0 TREASURER'S REPORT – David Michelson

David went over the fiscal year-end report which he distributed (See Attached). He asked all Committee Chairs to send him any outstanding invoices as soon as possible because he will be closing the books and taking them to Corcoran and Associates who will do the third party audit.

The Schroeder Bequest Funds will be taken out of the Certificates of Deposit (CDs) at Wilmington Trust and invested in Vanguard No Load Funds. A second Regular Checking Account will be opened at TD Bank for the money we are using for the Energy Efficiency Improvements rebates that Frank Jost just told us about. That money will be reimbursed by the government. Eventually, when that program is completed, we will close that account.

After all the bills are paid this fiscal year, the remaining General Fund money will go back to the Trustees to offset land rent.

Questions:

Denis O'Regan – Under “Donations” on the BWVC statement, is the \$3250 what the Ardens donated? *David* – I can't say exactly. If it is, it includes the donations that people have given to the BWVC. *Denis* – Do we know the amount that the other two Ardens give and does that change every year? *David* – One is \$700 and one is \$1500. *Denis* – Could we forecast that on the Budget side? *David* – Yes.

Treasurer's Report Accepted

10.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – Bill Theis

The Schroeder Bequest Grant Funds for this year were split between the Forest and Playground Committee projects. Each will receive \$2000.

Thanks to all the nominees for committee positions for running for these volunteer positions and to the Committee Chairs for putting together a full slate of nominees.

Questions – None

Advisory Committee Report Accepted

11.0 BOARD OF ASSESSORS' REPORT– Tom Wheeler

All are invited to attend the Assessors meetings. We prefer that all questions and comments come at the end of the meetings.

Questions - None

Board of Assessors' Report Accepted.

11.0 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ABSENTEE VOTING - Marianne Cinaglia, Pam Politis, Sally Sharp

The Committee members read the following report:

Ad hoc Committee on Absentee Voting Report
March 28, 2011

At the January 24, 2011 Town Meeting, the Town Assembly passed a motion to establish a process of discussion and amending of proposed Arden Ordinance 15: Absentee Voting for Election of Town Officials and Committee Members. The motion was introduced in part in an effort to provide additional ways to promote community involvement in its civic process. Recognizing changes in 21st century lifestyles requires accommodations to better suit today's Arden residents. The January town meeting motion itemized approved activities that included:

- Distribution of the proposed ordinance;
- Appointment of additional members to an ad hoc committee other than the registration committee;
- Town Chair was to obtain a legal opinion in writing concerning requirements of the town charter concerning absentee voting provisions;
- Ad hoc committee to host public meetings on absentee ballot issue;
- Information made available on Arden government website and comments solicited via website;
- Proposed ordinance (or other mechanism) presented for reading at March 2011 town meeting.

In accordance with the Motion as passed, the Town Chair appointed a three-member ad hoc committee. Members of the committee are Marianne Cinaglia, Pam Politis, and Sally Sharp. The originally proposed Arden Ordinance 15 was distributed for public comment in the March Arden Page, and two public forum meetings were held in March at the Buzz Ware Village Center. Meeting Notice was posted in the March Arden Page and flyers were distributed to each household in Arden with information about the meetings, which were held March 6 and March 9, 2011. A revised proposed ordinance has also been distributed to the community.

An online forum for information and commenting was established and continues to be updated at <http://www.arden.delaware.gov/>. The town chair received a verbal legal opinion as requested (although a written opinion has not been issued), and a proposed ordinance has been prepared for reading at the March 2011 town meeting. As such, the ad hoc committee is pleased to report that the activities set forth in the Motion as passed at the January Town meeting have been accomplished.

The ad hoc committee is very grateful to have received comments and input from several members of the Arden public. Approximately ten Arden community members attended the public meetings regarding absentee balloting, and many others provided input to individual committee members during our comment solicitation period.

While a wide range of opinions concerning the issue were offered, two primary positions were expressed regarding absentee voting for Town Officers and Committee Members. (Note, the ad hoc committee did not examine absentee voting for other Town governance business including ordinances and motions).

Many community members fully support a mechanism for absentee balloting in Arden by request, similar to the absentee ballot provided for State and Federal elections. Comments stated that a simple request to the Registration Committee for a ballot prior to the March town meeting demonstrates sufficient interest in town affairs to qualify for eligibility to vote for town Officials and committee members. An absentee ballot mechanism consistent with this group of commenters would provide a user-friendly supplement to the existing voting procedure, without a complicated protocol for qualifying absentee ballot voting privileges. Recently, Ardencroft adopted an absentee balloting procedure that could be viewed as consistent with these comments.

Opposition to an “on-request” absentee ballot mechanism was voiced by several commenters. One concern was that an absentee ballot mechanism would allow individuals lacking basic information on town affairs to vote on Town Officials and Committee Members, potentially obscuring the election outcome desired by those informed by town meeting attendance. Several community members expressed concern that the election process would be susceptible to manipulation by a facile absentee balloting procedure. Others felt that confidentiality would be difficult to protect if only a few absentee ballots were requested for an election.

Another argument against an “on-request” absentee voting process expressed and discussed centered on the importance of requiring some level of “town participation” before a town member could vote absentee. It was noted that Arden’s system of self-governing required a higher level of involvement by residents to operate, and thus borrowing the absentee voting standards of the State and Federal governments is not appropriate.

The “participation requirement” suggestions from this line of discussion varied and included attendance at previous town meetings or service on a town committee or community-related board. There was also significant discussion directed to limiting the requests for absentee voting only for specific reasons, such as illness or military service as opposed to vacations and college students away at school. It was noted that any such requirement would make it more difficult for a resident to qualify to vote for an election than qualify as a nominee and be elected as an officer or committee member.

In an effort to understand and appropriately address the objections of those concerned about an “on-request” absentee ballot option, many alternatives were discussed, including the voting procedure currently used for the fall budget and assessors referendum ballot.

The committee received favorable feedback from the individuals attending the public meetings concerning the proposition of adopting a procedure for electing Town Officials and Committee Members that employs an election process similar to the one used to vote on the yearly budget, i.e., sending ballots to all eligible voters.

The current proposal provides a familiar voting process (a process similar to the process used for Budget approval and Assessor elections) which avoids introducing a complicated protocol for eligibility, and permits the Registration Committee to manage the logistics of carrying out the election within the limited constraints of the proposed ordinance.

Report respectfully submitted.

Ad Hoc committee on Absentee Voting

Marianne Cinaglia, Pam Politis, and Sally Sharp

Marianne added that Ardencroft recently implemented absentee voting and that their lawyer had suggested it be done via an ordinance. Marianne read the following Ad Hoc Committee's proposed ordinance for Absentee Voting for the Village of Arden:

Proposed Village of Arden Ordinance 15

Election of Town Officials and Committee Members (March 28, 2011)

Section 1. Purpose: Arden shall have a procedure for electing Town Officials and Committee Members that more closely parallels the process used to approve the yearly budget. This process would allow all members of the Town Assembly to more fully participate in Town affairs and will be effective for the March 2012 election.

Section 2. An Act to Reincorporate the Village of Arden (1968) Section 4: *Structure of Government* states: "The Town Assembly shall consist of all residents of the Village."

Section 3. The election of Officials and Committee Members will take place at the March Town Meeting.

Section 4. The election shall be conducted by the Registration Committee:

1. Ballots are mailed to residents by the Registration Committee four (4) weeks before the March meeting.
2. Ballots are returned by mail, by delivering it or causing it to be delivered as specified by the Registration Committee before the adjournment of the March Town meeting.

Town Chair Steven Threefoot explained the process for passing an ordinance. It is read before the Town Assembly at three consecutive meetings where it can be discussed and modified if necessary. The ordinance is voted on after the third reading.

Discussion:

Mike Curtis – I thought the Act to Reincorporate was in 1967.

Charles Robinson – What was the legal opinion that your committee received? How will mid-term vacancies be handled? I question the need for an ordinance. *Steven Threefoot* - The Village's attorney sent, in writing, that the Village does not have to have an Absentee Ballot. It is our choice. If we decide to have absentee voting he recommends the ordinance process. The other two options are by Motion before Town Assembly or to go through the State to change the Town Charter. *Marianne* – Regarding the question about mid-term vacancies, the committee decided that much of the details would be left to the Registration Committee.

Ray Seigfried – I suggest that there be a method for checks and balances much like what we have for electing Assessors and the Budget Referendum. *Marianne* – That was considered but some felt it involved too much detail.

Ed Rohrbach – In Section 4, line 1, you don't say which residents.

Marianne – "Resident" is defined in the Act to Reincorporate. *Ed* – How much would it cost to do that mailing? *Marianne* – We have 198 leaseholds, about 300

residents. It would cost about \$1.00/leasehold. *Ed* – Each resident needs to receive a ballot. If you mailed only to people who request an absentee ballot, you may only have to mail out a couple dozen – at less cost to the Village. *Pam Politis* – We received these comments and perceived a difficulty in establishing who could make the request and also the loss of confidentiality. *Ed* – Confidentiality could be maintained even if there were a few absentee ballots if envelopes were opened and ballots recorded by two separate people. *Pam* – Your idea that ballots be sent out “by request” could be suggested to the Registration Committee.

Elizabeth Varley- I do not think this needs to be an ordinance. It could be a procedure developed by the Registration Committee. If it becomes an ordinance, we are locked into it.

Cecilia Vore – I am speaking for the Registration Committee. We proposed an ordinance for absentee voting that required residents to attend certain number of Town Meetings if they wish an absentee ballot. That was shot down, for good reason. In the mean time you have gotten legal opinion and I spoke with the lawyer as to whether absentee voting is permissible under a Town Meeting form of Government. I have done a lot of research and found that there are some Town Meeting forms of government that do it and others that said “absolutely not!” Our lawyer says that either way is okay. So, the Registration Committee sees that it is okay to have absentee voting, however, the Ad Hoc Committee proposal is not an absentee voting proposal, and we were hoping for one. What you say in the paragraph that begins with “ Many community members fully support...” is really what I was expecting. We are required by The Act to Reincorporate to elect committees “by a majority of those voting at the March Town Meeting.” I disagree entirely with your interpretation of what the Town Meeting is. Although that one sentence defines it as equivalent to town resident, there are many things in the Act to Reincorporate that talk about the need for a quorum at Town Meeting and the date that the Town Meeting must take place. This definition of how we must conduct the election of the officers and committees says that it must be done by the vote at the March meeting of the Town Assembly. For that reason I do not believe it would be legal if this proposed ordinance were to pass. If you pass this ordinance you would have to change the Act to Reincorporate. The Registration Committee is in favor of an absentee voting procedure. I have no problem with assuring that the vote would be confidential. We could have an affidavit for applying for an absentee ballot. To have a mail-in ballot is costly and labor intensive. I feel that the Registration Committee could easily adopt an Absentee Voting procedure and during our Committee Report this evening I will present a Motion for such a procedure. It will not be an ordinance.

Betty O'Regan – Mailing ballots to every resident is costly and would involve a lot of work to insure that people didn't mail in a vote and also try to vote at Town Meeting.

Ray Seigfried – The ordinance appears to be a new way of voting rather than an absentee voting procedure. I am not saying it is wrong. It could allow for greater community participation. A year ago the Town Assembly voted to give the Town Chair the opportunity to change the Date of Town Meeting. I think we could do the same thing here without having to change the Act to Reincorporate. I agree that checks and balances are necessary.

Connee McKinney – I have been hoping for an absentee ballot for a long time. There are times when people cannot make the March meeting. This is a signal that we want participation. I will vote for this.

Gary Quinton – I have lived in twelve states. All of them had “on request” absentee ballots. In some of those states I had to prove why I was absent via an affidavit process otherwise I was expected to be at the voting poll. I don’t understand why we would do anything differently. This seems to be very complicated. *Marianne* – There are at least 24 states where you need no reason at all to request an absentee ballot. *Gary* – But, you do have to request it, otherwise you are expected to be at the polls. An absentee ballot is not automatically sent to everyone.

Mike Curtis – Why not elect Officers and Committees the same way we elect Assessors and approve the Budget? This would replace the process of voting at Town Meeting and get greater participation.

Marianne Cinaglia – Many of the residents with small children and who are very active in the community are not here at Town Meeting because they have other obligations. This proposed ordinance would increase community involvement to every single resident. *Elizabeth Varley* – I take exception to that comment. I may not have young children now, but when I did I still came to Town Meetings, and there are parents of small children here tonight. It is a matter of choice and it really doesn’t have anything to do with absentee voting.

Ad Hoc Committee Report Accepted. Ayes have it. There were some No votes.

12.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Archives Committee – Lisa Mullinax

Lisa read the following report:

Our curator, Keith Minsinger, Barbara Macklem and Sadie Somerville attended the Mid Atlantic Small Museums conference in February and got lots of useful and new ideas for museums of our size.

We are working to update our computer system and archival software so we can be more efficient in our cataloging. Keith made some connections to get the latest version of Past Perfect, the software we use, for free from the Delaware Division of Libraries. He also has been updating us on several grant opportunities and internships that can help us with several key projects for the Archives.

We are working on plans for summer activities with ACRA, the Shakespeare Guild and other events.

The museum is open Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9:00 PM and Sunday afternoons 1:00-3:00 PM. Barbara Henry will be featured at “Meet the Artist” on April 17. Enjoy the refreshments!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mullinax

Questions-

Ruth Bean – Have you decided who will be featured for Remembrance Day? I would like to mention that in the Memorial Garden letter that we will be sending out soon. *Lisa* – Not yet.

Archives Report Accepted

12.2 Audit Committee Report – Cookie Ohlson

On March 23, 2011, the Audit Committee conducted an random internal audit on the Arden books and accounts. All was found to be in order.

Questions – None

Audit Committee Report Accepted

12.3 Budget Committee – Gary Quinton on behalf of Jeffrey Politis

The Three Year Budget projection was distributed. (See Attached) Gary read the following report:

The committee would like to recognize Larry Walker for his comments in providing line numbers for the printed budget. This is a three year expense statement. We expect expenses on a total basis to be flat next year and rise a modest 3% year over year after next. Details on the factors making up Property Taxes assessed by New Castle County can be found in Note number one. In current Fiscal Year, we overestimated the county and school taxes and the 2013 forecast was adjusted for the accrual for this year's overage. For BWVC operations, we have broken out the operations income and expenses, which gives a view of the impact of the BWVC as it impacts town expenses. As we look at the explanation of trustee, village, and BWVC operations expenses, the Budget Committee recognizes this format may not be adequate for future planning activities and is reviewing other formats for the 2012 town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Quinton

Chair Steven Threefoot explained that the Three Year Budget Projection originated as a mechanism for giving the Assessors an expectation of how the future looks. The Assessors meet now to put together the assessment that will go into effect a year from now. The Budget is set in September.

Questions:

Charles Robinson – I hope that whoever negotiates with the trash collectors points out that they will be getting a considerable amount of money from the \$.04/ bottle tax. *Steven Threefoot* – They will not be getting anything from Arden because we already have an established recycling program. That money is only for municipalities who are establishing new recycling programs. It is intended for the purchase of recycling bins and we already have them.

Marianne Cinaglia – On the Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred and the League of Women Voters websites there is information that explains the nuances of recycling law. Even though the trash collectors are bringing less trash to the landfill because there is more recycling going on, the tipping fees are going up.

Budget Committee Report Accepted.

12.4 Buzz Ware Village Center Committee – Warren Rosenkranz

Warren read the following report:

The BWVC committee has received 3 bids each for the projects to be funded under the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant.

Project 1 is the upgrading of the light fixtures in the BWVC from T12 to T 8.

Project 2 is the upgrade the boilers from the 50% efficient oil fired boilers to 92%+ natural gas boilers. The same vendor will install “on demand” domestic hot water as well as zoning rooms 3 and 4 which are now the same zone to have each room as individual zone.

Project 3 is adding a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system to the roof of the Buzz. The Buzz has upgraded the electrical service from 100 to 200 amps and has had an additional breaker box added to the system. This service upgrade is in its final stages. Additional criteria have been added since we received bids for the PV system. One of the new criteria is having a shade analysis done for the Buzz. With the current shade from four different trees we are seeking a sense of the community on the removal and replacement with a similar number of indigenous trees. The four trees in question are the 2 cherry trees and yew immediately outside the Buzz entrance, and the tulip poplar on the North end of the Buzz’s on street parking area. We have consulted with the Civic Committee and they have approved the removal of the trees with two considerations. First the poplar must be replaced by a native tree and the tree removal and replacement will be borne by the solar collector budget. I feel that the removal of those trees will better qualify us for The PV System and the cost can be included in the solar collector budget.

We are working with Ron Bovasso, the Grant Administrator to expedite the contracts to the bidders that the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee has chosen to do the EECBG work.

Now I will hear any comments from the community about the removal and replacement of the aforementioned trees. At the end of the comments I would like to have a vote on whether we should or should not have the trees removed and benefit from the installation of the PV panels, which I expect to save the Village several thousand per year.

Warren Rosenkranz
Co-Chair BWVC Committee

Questions:

Betty O’Regan – Is there any value for keeping the trees for their cooling affect in the summer? *Warren* – No, the shade on the solar panels makes them virtually inoperable even when they are partially covered with shade. *Betty* – Did you say that one or both of the trees would be replaced with similar trees? *Warren* – The cherry trees would be replaced with a deciduous tree. The tulip poplar, the same. *Chair Steven Threefoot* – Point of clarification: there are four trees to be taken down.

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee Report Accepted

12.5 Civic Committee – Tom Wheeler & Ed Rohrbach
Ed Rohrbach:

Hopefully we are done with snow removal for the year. The grass cutting contract will begin in April.

We are preparing to replace and repaint the street signs that are hard to read. Some are done, but not all. We will be cleaning up the area around The Stile Path at Harvey Rd. and Lower Lane.

There has been a complaint about contractors illegally using our trash service. We will investigate.

Tom Wheeler:

We are gathering information about renovating the Rain Garden. It hasn't had any maintenance since it was installed. Marianne Cinaglia, who instigated the project many years ago, has volunteered to contact Wallace, who installed it, and ask them for guidance on how to get it back into shape.

Questions- None

Civic Committee Report Accepted.

12.6 Community Planning Committee – Ray Seigfried & Ruth Bean

MEMORIAL GARDEN – Ruth

The Annual Memorial Garden Clean Up will be April 30, 9:00 AM-noon. The Rain Date is the following day. Please come with garden tools and energy. All ages invited. Anyone who still has Christmas decorations at grave sites, please remove them.

LONG STANDING VACANT HOUSES –Ray

Community Planning Committee continues to discover a process for long standing vacant house. Several weeks ago the committee met with Cynthia Ferguson, Vacant Program Administrator for Wilmington City, and discussed the success of that program. The Committee also met recently with attorney Roger Truemper to discuss the legal ramifications of imposing a vacant housing fee. Given our knowledge of what other communities are doing, we will be holding an open forum in May and June to review our findings and to obtain feedback from the community on this topic. We will report back to Town Meeting in June with our recommendation.

Questions - None

Community Planning Report Accepted.

12.7 Forest Committee – Elizabeth Varley

Elizabeth read the following report:

Please contact the Forest Committee any time there are chips to be dispersed from trees taken down.

We are planning to use Greg Gagliano, a specialist in native plant and habitat restoration on the staff of the Delaware Nature Society, to help us control invasive plants at the Marsh and Millers site. We hope this site will be a model for restoring many sites throughout Arden and Sherwood Forests. We encourage leaseholders with forest adjacent homes to pay particular attention to our efforts and consider joining in when we get to areas near leaseholds.

The Forest Committee applied to the Schroeder Bequest for funds and were awarded \$2000 to continue work at our Marsh and Millers corner. As of March, we had completed work of tree management funded by the Delaware Department of Agriculture Urban Forestry Grant and matched with funds from our budget and volunteer hours. We will continue restoring the area and planting a greater diversity of plants native to our area with funds from Schroeder. We are considering labeling the area to highlight the efforts. Suggestions for naming the area are welcome.

Watch *The Arden Page* for Spring Nature walks with Elaine Schmerling and Barbara Conway. We will look for ephemeral plants and birds on May 1st. Arden's Spring Forest Cleanup will be on Saturday, April 16. At 8:45 AM, we

will meet at the Buzz Ware picnic tables for coffee and treats before going out to do battle. Ardentown will be cleaning up the Sunnyside Tract on the same day and we'll all meet prior to action.

Verizon girdled one of our trees with a support wire from one of their poles on Millers Road. They put up a new pole for support and removed the wire from the tree. Thank you Joad Kazan for following up on this until it was done.

As always, please report blocked forest pathways.

Questions:

Sally Sharp – How did the chips at the end of The Highway next to Sherwood Forest and Clay Ridings house get there? *Elizabeth* – It was a communication problem and we are resolving it.

Ed Rohrbach – How many square feet is the area that is being restored between Naamans Creek and Millers Rd.? *Elizabeth* – Not sure. *Ed* – It looks like it may be about 300 sq. ft. Is \$2000 enough for that? *Elizabeth* – If it is not, it will give us a good start. *Ed* – If you need more, where will you get it? *Elizabeth* – We may apply for Schroeder Funds next year; do some fundraising; ask for donations; and we also have a budget. *Ed* – We have been talking about clearing the forest of invasive plants for quite a while now and I haven't seen any progress. *Greg Gagliano* – It really is a start. Once you start getting rid of the invasives, each year afterwards you have to spend less time on that area, so you can then move on to another area. *Carol Larson* – The plan is to put in plants at the border of the area in question. We have been looking at a larger area beyond that. If you would like to walk it with us sometime we can check it out together.

Denis O'Regan – Is the trailer gone from under the Water Tower? *Elizabeth* – No it is not. United Water did come and take away the pile of wood that they threw into the woods. *Denis* – On behalf of the Safety Committee, I hand delivered a letter to the site over ten days ago because there were cans of flammable liquid stacked up within the fence line and piles of black grit that they use for sand blasting. The subcontractor of the subcontractor of United Water called me back and assured me they would be out in five days. If that trailer is not out of there, we should get tough with this situation. I was very clear with the guy about the cleanup. We don't want it to be just raked up. If there is any grit in the soil, we want 1/4" shoveled up. We want the grit gone, and that's not the case right now. *Elizabeth* – I'll go out tomorrow and take a look.

Roger Garrison – The chain into that Water Tower area is either gone or in the grass. *Elizabeth* – I will check that out. *Roger* – Whose bench is it that use to be down around the old swimming hole and is now by Peter Renzetti's house? *Elizabeth* – I don't know.

Sally Sharp – The Water Tower contractors did cleanup the black grit, but they have made a gigantic tire rut in the woods. They are not done. *Elizabeth* – I will take a look.

Forest Committee Report Accepted.

12.8 Playground Committee – Larry Walker

Larry read the following report:

Since the last Town Meeting in January, the one required Playground Equipment Inspection was held, and all equipment was inspected to determine that it was in

good order. In addition, all equipment was adult tested for safety. All equipment is in safe condition.

The last project for this past Fiscal Year has been the renovation of the area under the swings, jungle gym, and slide at the Millers Road end of the Village Green. A description of the scope of work was reported at previous Town Meetings, and the purpose of this project is to renew the shock absorbing material under the playground equipment, to reduce maintenance costs, and make routine maintenance easier. Playground equipment inspectors recommend that, as part of the maintenance of any “Fall Zone” around any playground equipment, about every decade the old wood mulch, which has usually decayed into compost and lost most of its shock attenuating properties, be removed. Further, the areas of the fall zone should be filled with a shredded hardwood material meeting American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM F1292) requirements. The work began in mid-March, with new wood curbs installed. Soil that was removed is being used outside the curbs to grade the area so there are no tripping hazards. A 3-inch layer of crushed stone was installed inside the curbs to provide drainage which will keep the wood material and the playing surface dryer. The old mulch was removed, and spread outside the wood curbs. Later this week, the entire area will be filled with ASTM approved mulch. Finally, the nearby grassy areas that were damaged during construction will be tilled and re-seeded to restore the area.

The Committee has been contacted by individuals who have expressed concerns about aspects of this project, and as best we could, replies were given to explain why the Playground Committee reached their decisions on this renovation. We have been guided in our designs and operations, as we have since 1979, by the established guidelines and recommendations of the Handbook of Public Playground Safety published by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Since the establishment of the Playground Committee, the record of safety on the Arden playgrounds has been excellent, largely because we have scrupulously followed these national safety guidelines.

Submitted by,
Mary Vernon and Larry Walker, Co-Chairs

Larry added that the safety record of the Playground Committee has been excellent. The committee was established because an Arden child was killed on a piece of equipment that had never been inspected. Since then the committee has made sound decisions on removing, replacing, and maintaining all the playground equipment on all the Greens. Shock absorbing surfaces have been installed under all equipment. These things are done in case children and adults are careless and not alert in the playground area. Safety guidelines have changed over time and we have upgraded accordingly. Our design is in keeping with current best practices.

Questions :

Denis O'Regan – Because of my business I am aware of Consumer Product Safety, but just because it's in the book doesn't mean we should stop thinking about it. I consider installing a wooden perimeter around the wood chips to be a mistake. A child could fall on that wooden barrier, hit their head, and be severely hurt. A gentle blend from wood chips to grass would be safer. I am against putting hard surfaces around the playground areas. *Larry* – A piece of playground equipment was installed at the far end of the Village Green with the wood barrier, crushed stone underneath

and wood chips on top. No one has commented negatively about that.

Rodney Jester – Will there be a fabric barrier between the stone and the wood chips? *Larry* – Yes.

Playground Committee Report Accepted.

12.10 Registration Committee – Cecilia Vore

The Registration Committee met on March 22 to review the proposed Ordinance 15, which concerns the election of Committees and Officers. The Committee also reviewed a detailed “to do” list that covers all the tasks involved in conducting the March election. The Registration Committee is conducting the annual election of Committees and Officers tonight. Votes will be counted on Tuesday, March 29 at the Buzz Ware Village Center at 7:00 PM. The public is invited to attend. Results will be posted on the Village website and bulletin boards.

The Committee will make a Motion for Absentee Voting. It is not in opposition to the Ad Hoc Committee proposed Ordinance. The Registration has given the matter a great deal of thought and listened to peoples arguments. We do want an Absentee Voting procedure and thought we would get one from the Ad Hoc Committee this evening. However, their proposed ordinance does not provide a procedure. The Motion we will make incorporates the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the practices for Absentee Voting in Delaware and other Town Meeting forms of government in other states. We believe it is legal even given the requirement of our Act to Reincorporate that Officers and Committees are elected by a vote at the March Town Meeting. It also addresses the objections made to our previous Motion made at the June 2010 Town Meeting.

MOVED [incorporating points of clarification made by Larry Walker & Steven Threefoot]

The Registration Committee will establish a procedure for absentee voting for the March elections of Standing Committees and Officers, to be implemented by the March 2012 election. Such absentee voting will be available for all residents of Arden who cannot vote in person for the following reasons:

- the resident’s business or occupation prevents him or her from voting at the Town Meeting. “Occupation” shall include care of a family member.
- the resident will be out of town on election day. This includes military service, college, or vacation as examples.
- the tenets or teachings of the resident’s religion prevent participation in the election.
- the resident has a physical disability – either temporary or permanent – which prevents the resident from voting at the Town Meeting.

The resident must submit an affidavit stating the reason for Absentee Voting and requesting a ballot.

“Resident” is here defined as in the Act to Reincorporate as a person 18 years of age or older who has resided in the Village of Arden for 6 months prior to the election. The Registration Committee will establish a method of obtaining and submitting the Affidavit/Request for an Absentee Ballot, and a procedure for receiving and submitting the Absentee Ballot.

SECONDED

Discussion:

Ray Seigfried- Could the Registration Committee hammer out something with the Ad Hoc Committee? *Cecilia* –This Motion is almost identical to a proposal we put before the June Town Meeting but it got defeated, so this has been discussed before. This does discuss points that Marianne has mentioned. This is already the result of many months of hammering out.

Ed Rohrbach – Could you eliminate the need for an affidavit? *Cecilia* – It is standard procedure to give a reason for needing an absentee ballot and it is also important because we have a requirement that the election take place at the March Town Meeting.

Warren Rosenkranz – I don't see anything about denying an affidavit. People could put any reason. *Cecilia* – Four reasons are listed.

Ray Seigfried – How do you prevent someone from having an absentee ballot and also coming to Town Meeting and voting? *Cecilia* – We would have a list of people who have requested absentee ballots and have that at the door. *Ray* – I think it would still be a good idea for the Registration and Ad Hoc Committees to reach a compromise. *Cecilia* – There can be no compromise with the procedure of mailing out a ballot to every resident. That is not an absentee voting procedure.

Marianne Cinaglia – The Ad Hoc Committee held two public meetings and none of the Registration Committee members attended. We let the people around town know before they arrived what we would be presenting at Town Meeting. The Ardens are the only three communities in the whole state where you cannot vote in absentee. This is not an ordinance. There are ordinances that we have now that are not followed and are treated as policy. This is such an important issue that it needs to be done by ordinance as our lawyer recommended. I am voting “no.”

Denis O'Regan – I am for the Motion. I think it is the sense of the community. It does not bother me that the Registration Committee has not attended the Ad Hoc Committee meetings, because the Registration Committee's position on this has been well known for some time.

Elizabeth Varley - I am voting for the Motion. I am convinced that this is something we should do. I am glad it is not an ordinance because it will allow us to tweek it as necessary after we try it.

Warren Rosenkranz – The first sentence says the Registration Committee will establish a procedure for absentee voting. I think there should be a Motion after that procedure is established. *Cecilia* – The Committee currently has very well documented procedures. We don't feel that the procedure needs to be part of the Motion. As defined in our governing documents, the Committee has the power to set election procedures.

Hugh Roberts- I'm going to vote for this. It is a good way to try out a procedure. If changes have to be made, they can easily be made later on.

Marianne Cinaglia – I support the Motion with the exception that it is not an ordinance. I feel it is important to have something, once established, that we can go forward with and not able to change by a policy decision and not brought up before Town Assembly for a vote. *Chair Steven Threefoot* - If it is a Motion voted on in Town Assembly, it cannot be changed by a policy decision, but a change can be voted on in a single Town Meeting. *Marianne* – Changing in a single Town Meeting doesn't allow for as much thought as is required for the changes to ordinances.

Danny Schweers – I am going to vote for the Motion. For the first time, in my memory, we will have the list of nominees four weeks before the election.

Denis O'Regan – This does not undo what the Ad Hoc Committee is working on, correct? *Cecilia* – We've built upon what they have done.

Ed Rohrbach – The ordinance proposal puts an unnecessary burden on the Registration Committee and expense on the Town.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION

The Town Secretary read the Motion. (See above)

Motion passed. Ayes have it. There were some No votes.

Registration Committee Report Accepted.

12.9 Safety Committee – Bill Theis

Bill read the following report:

On Sunday morning, March 27th, at approximately 1:15 AM, three cars at the Craft Shop parking area on Millers Road had their rear windows shot out by what appears to be an air rifle. One resident of the Craft Shop apartments heard a pop, pop, pop sound and went to investigate. She heard a diesel vehicle accelerating away from the scene. Additionally, a car at The Mall and East Mall in Ardentown had the driver side window shot out. The County police investigated several hours later. No evidence as to the type of projectile was found at that time. If anyone has information regarding this incident, please contact Amy Laws at the New Castle County Police Department at 573-2800.

If you witness suspicious activity, please note the time, date, and activity witnessed and contact the New Castle County Police or email the information to wltheis@comcast.net.

Questions:

Ed Rohrbach – There were people drinking beer at Indian Circle all night last night. I did not notice this until they got in their cars at 3:45 AM.

Ruth Bean – Could an article be placed in The Arden Page reminding Ardenites to obey the speed limits around Arden and on Harvey Rd.?

Cynthia Dewick – Could the Safety Committee spend more of their budget on speed enforcement on Harvey Rd.? Residents take their lives in their hands when trying to do any yard work along Harvey Rd. *Denis O'Regan*- We backed off from speed enforcement because we were getting very little return from the amount of money we were paying the police. Very few tickets were being written.

Roger Garrison – Could a STOP sign be placed at the intersection of Lover's Lane and Sherwood Rd.? People are picking up a lot of speed coming down the hill on Sherwood Rd. *Bill*- We will follow up on that.

Hugh Roberts – It is difficult to tell what the Arden area is on the crime map in the newspaper. *Denis* – Regarding Arden's crime rate compared to the rest of Brandywine Hundred, Amy Tevis, our New Castle County community liaison officer, said that we are running about the same. She would not go so far as to say there has been an increase in our crime rate even though we are usually lower than the rest of Brandywine Hundred.

Betty O'Regan – Regarding the speed enforcement on Harvey Rd., I would like to suggest using the flashing sign that tells the speed that vehicles are traveling.
Denis – Yes, the Committee will definitely look into that since speed usually slows down when they are used.

Safety Committee Report Accepted.

13.0 OLD BUSINESS – None

14.0 NEW BUSINESS

- Marianne Cinaglia suggested that the Officers and Advisory Committee update the Red Book.
- Ruth Bean would like to get people together to update the Arden Book.

15.0 Good & Welfare – None

16.0 Meeting Adjourned - 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hickey
Secretary
Village of Arden

Attachments

Statement of Financial Activity missing from the 01/24/2011 Town Meeting Minutes

**Buzz Ware Village Center
Statement of Financial Activity
January 24 2011**

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY
1/24/11

	BuzzWare		Budget	% to Budget	Buzz renovation Apr '10 - Jan 24 '11
	Apr '10 - Jan 24 '11				
Revenue					
4000 - General Funds - Village	7,000	7,000	7,000	100.00%	
4010 - Donations	2,650	-	-	-	632
4100 - Event Revenue	-	3,000	3,000	0.00%	6,054
4400 - Rentals	15,797	23,802	23,802	66.33%	-
Total Revenue	25,437	33,802	33,802	75.25%	6,686
Expenses					
8000 - Payroll & PR Taxes	8,860	14,133	14,133	62.69%	-
8300 - Administrative Expenses	-	155	155	0.00%	-
8310 - Janitorial Supplies	792	917	917	86.32%	-
8500 - Equipment Purchases	-	250	250	0.00%	470
8800 - Audit Bkping, PR Expenses	107	225	225	47.56%	-
7020 - Utilities	7,651	9,537	9,537	80.54%	-
7060 - Licenses, Permits, Fees, Alarm Monitoring	112	785	785	94.06%	-
7600 - Renovations	112	1,000	1,000	11.22%	-
7800 - Repairs & Maintenance	1,544	4,000	4,000	38.59%	-
8000 - Program Expenses	506	2,800	2,800	18.06%	1,507
Total Expense	20,340	33,802	33,802	60.17%	1,977
Surplus (deficit)	6,097	6,097	-	16.08%	4,709
Carried forward balance	-	-	-	-	300
Surplus (deficit)	6,097	6,097	-	16.08%	5,009

Trustees of Arden
 Quarterly Report
 February 24, 2011

Assets	
Arden B&L	\$173,978.88
Wilmington Trust	27,865.91
Vanguard Bequest Funds	224,394.37
Vanguard Village Reserve	4,424.30
Total Current Cash & Equiv	\$430,663.46
Income	
Land Rent & Related Income	\$550,474.08
Investment Income All Sources	12,352.67
Total Income	\$562,826.75
Expenses	
New Castle County	\$374,309.05
Village of Arden	140,000.00
Insurance	8,553.00
Third Party Audit	6,000.00
Third Party Bookkeeping	2,829.20
Third Party Legal	2,533.70
Third Party Engineering/Other	0.00
General Administration	10,047.69
Total Expenses	\$544,272.64

Trustee: Mike Curtis

Admin. Asst. Josha McNeil

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY
3/28/11

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 24, 2011

Checking/Savings

1000 · TD Bank Operating Account	(1,093)	General operating
1005 · ING Direct	30,250	General operating
1032 · Arden Building & Loan	25,000	General operating
Total Checking/Savings - Village Funds	54,157	
1010 · TD Bank MSA Checking Account	14,244	Municipal Street Aid
1004 · 2 CD's - Firstrust Bank	220,320	Schroeder Bequest
1020 · Wilmington Trust 2943-0071	174,981	Schroeder Bequest
Total Schroeder Bequest	395,301	
1030 · Arden Building & Loan	11,671	Hamburger Lecture Series
1031 · Arden Building & Loan	569	Buzzware Funds
TOTAL ASSETS	475,943	

LIABILITIES

2000 · Accounts Payable	4,800
2010 · Payroll Liabilities	(1,203)
Total Liabilities	3,597

FUND BALANCES

Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	1,146	
Lecture Series	11,671	
J Schroeder Bequest	395,301	\$3,882 committed towards FY12
Memorial Garden	6,153	
MSA	14,244	
Village - general fund	43,831	
Total Equity	472,346	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	475,943	

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY
3/28/11

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Activity
4/1- 3/24/11

	4/1-3/24/11	Budget	Footnotes	% to Budget
Revenue				
4000 · General Funds - Village	161,500	183,000		88.25%
4200 - Grants	10,447	-	1	
4510 · Franchise Fee Receipts	14,503	12,100		119.86%
4900 · Interest Income	629	700		89.82%
Total Revenue	187,078	195,800		95.55%
Expenses				
6000 · Payroll & Payroll Taxes	10,722	12,184		88.00%
6300 · Administrative Expenses	4,327	4,250		101.81%
6900 · Audit,Bkping,PR Expenses	8,024	9,400		85.36%
7010 · Gild Hall Rental	-	1,300	2	0.00%
8000 · Committee Expenses	61,424	73,790		83.24%
8010 · Contributions & Donations	5,300	5,300		100.00%
Contingency Fund	8,660	9,500	3	91.16%
Grant Expense	6,112	-	1	
8030 · Trash Service	58,100	58,100	3	100.00%
9000 · Debt Service	16,070	16,176		99.34%
Total Expense	178,739	190,000		94.07%
Surplus (deficit)	8,339	5,800		
Committee	Actuals YTD	Budget		
Advisory	120	300		40.00%
Archives	1,325	1,440		92.01%
Assessors	-	50		0.00%
Buzz Ware	4,610	7,000		65.86%
Civic	47,674	50,000		95.35%
Community Planning	-	1,000		0.00%
Forest	5,250	8,000		65.63%
Playground	2,431	3,000		81.03%
Registration	-	1,000		0.00%
Safety	14	2,000		0.69%
	61,424	73,790		83.24%
Footnotes:				
1	DEMA \$4,335 Energy Grant \$6,112			
2	On August 25th the playground committee requested and the Village Officers approved shifting the \$1,300 budgeted for the Gild Hall Rental to the Playground Committee line item.			
3	Trash collection fees went up 20% effective July 1 and the total costs for the fiscal year will be \$66,760 or \$8,660 over budget			

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY
3/28/11

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Activity - Buzz Ware
March 24 2011

	Special Village Funds		
	BuzzWare		
	Apr '10 - Mar 24 '11	Budget	% to Budget
Revenue			
4000 - General Funds - Village	4,610	7,000	65.86%
4010 - Donations	3,250	-	
4400 - Rentals	20,117	26,802	75.06%
Total Revenue	27,977	33,802	82.77%
Expenses			
8000 - Payroll & PR Taxes	10,231	14,133	72.39%
8300 - Administrative Expenses	26	155	17.03%
8310 - Janitorial Supplies	925	917	100.84%
8600 - Equipment Purchases	-	250	0.00%
8900 - Audit, Bkping, PR Expenses	113	225	50.44%
7020 - Utilities	11,313	9,537	118.63%
7080 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/Alarm Monitoring	738	785	94.06%
7600 - Renovations	962	1,000	96.22%
7800 - Repairs & Maintenance	2,859	4,000	71.47%
8000 - Program Expenses	809	2,800	28.90%
Total Expense	27,977	33,802	82.77%
Surplus (Deficit)	-		

Notes to March 2011 3YR Budget Projections (on pg. 26-27)

Overall- For the columns headed 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, the amounts are those approved in the referenda for those years and are not actual expenditures. The remaining columns contain forecast amounts.

Note 1- School & County Taxes
Brandywine School District

David Blowman, CFO for the school district, informed us that there will be no referendum for the 2011 to 2012, but probably a referendum the following year for a small increase. Overall we are calculating that there will be less than a 2 1/2 % rise in school taxes for years ending 2013, 2014, & 2015

BSD tax components: (all figures are per hundred dollars assessed valuation)

Current Brandywine expense	Increases 2% for YE 2013
Temporary rate for athletic fields 2012	Decreases per referendum to 0 in 2012
Safety, security, energy & maintenance	Holds at .0330 through 2015
Current County expense	Fixed by statute at .4680
Debt Service tax	Estimated to rise at 5 % per year
Tuition tax	Estimated to rise at 5 % per year
Minor Capital improvement tax	Estimated to rise at 2 % per year
Technology tax	Fixed by statute at .0145

Votech Taxes - The Votech rate is not subject to a referendum. Fortunately, this rate is not a huge component in our taxes. The rate remained stable for about three years, then jumped forty percent for YE 2008. We estimate a 5% per annum rise in this rate.

County Taxes & Crossing Guard - Thereafter we estimate a 5% increase each year through YE 2015

Total Assessed Arden Property Value - For projections, we use the assumption that the total assessed value of Arden will rise 1/2 of one percent each year.

Note to the assessors- We now estimate that the School & County taxes for years 2010 to 2011 and 2011 to 2012 will be an aggregate of approximately \$45,000 less than the budgeted amounts for that period. The revised amounts are not shown as such on the spreadsheet. The columns marked appropriated contain the budgeted amounts for those years.

Note 2- Trustees administration costs are not expected to vary greatly from their YE 2012 levels. The most significant estimated increase is the cost of insurance.

Note 3- Trash pickup is figured to rise at under 5% per year over the next three years.

Note 4- Town operations & fees include Audit, phone, internet, postage, printing & administrative costs

Note 5- Grants are not expected to be received, however we expect to receive Municipal Street Aid. These expenses will be 100 % offset by grant money and should not be an expense accounted for in land rent.

Note 6- The costs of the secretary & treasurer are forecast to hold at their present levels.

Note 7- Buzz Ware Village Center Operations are listed to hold at about \$31,000 per year for years ending 2013, 2014, & 2015. These are total expenses from the Buzz and does not indicate the income off-set.

Note 8- Denotes that budget amounts are set by the budget committee. As of this date, the following committees have not reported budget amounts: Archives, Community Planning, & Playground

Note 9- \$7,000 set aside for Buzz for annual support to account for an income shortfall.

Note 10- The Capital, Maintenance, & Repair Fund, newly created for YE 2012 is forecast to have \$10,000 per year added to it.

Note 11- Civic Committee expense for Roads, Commons & Snow Plowing are expected to rise at under 3% per year.

Note 12- The forest committee has forecasted 6,000 per year for the next three years.

Note 13- Registration, Safety, & Donations will hold their present levels except that an Arden Club donation of \$ 400 has been added for the forecasted years. Note that Gild Hall rental has been discontinued.

Note 14- Contingencies are forecasted at \$10,000 per year.

Note 15- This total does not include the \$7,000 Buzz support as this support would only be used in case of income shortfall of the Buzz. Hence, this \$7,000 is already included in the Buzz expense (line 48).

Note 16- Expected income from Buzz Ware Operations and Donations

Note 17- Trustees will begin to pay rent to the Buzz Ware Village Center for office space. This is a trustee expense (line 13) which will come from land rent.

Note 18- Amount expected to be required to come from the \$7,000 town support (line 48).

Note 19- Total amount of money expected to be required to come from land rent to support the Buzz (addition of line 84 plus 86)

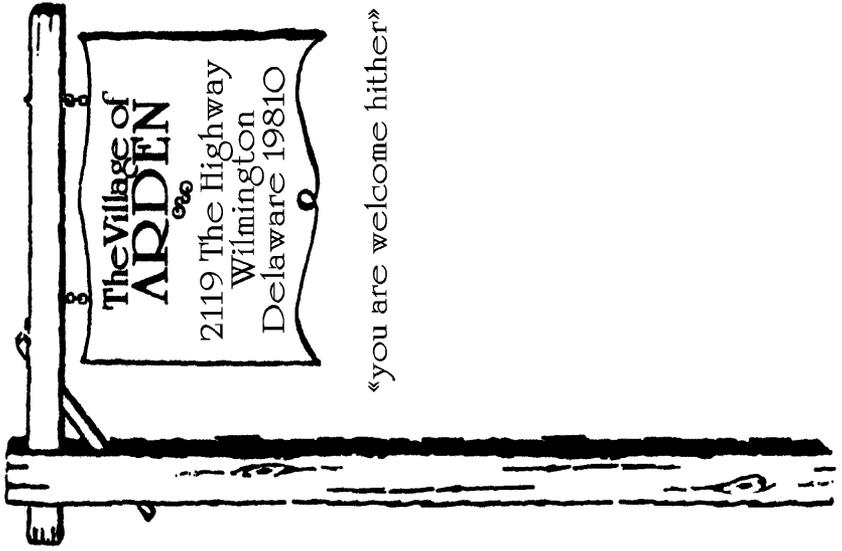
Note 20- Total Trustee and Town Expenses after Buzz operational income and donations are removed (line 77 minus line 83)

Arden Town Assembly
March 2011
Three Year Budget Look ahead

Line#			2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
		NOTE	Appropriated	Appropriated	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
1	TRUSTEE'S NON-BUDGET EXPENSES						
2	Property Taxes						
3	County (Property + Crossing Guard)	1	99,239	97,925	98,402	103,838	109,575
4	School (Brandywine + Votech)	1	297,217	313,140	301,030	310,095	319,661
5							
6							
7	Trustees Administration (Details below)	2	37,600	36,900	38,900	40,900	42,200
8							
9	Audit		3,000	2,500	2,500	2,800	2,900
10	Insurance		12,000	10,000	13,500	14,500	15,000
11	Professional-Legal		3,000	3,200	3,400	3,500	3,600
12	Operations & fees		19,600	18,800	17,000	17,500	18,000
13	Office Rent		0	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,700
14							
15	SUBTOTAL TRUSTEE'S NON-BUDGET EXPENSES		434,056	447,965	438,332	454,833	471,436
16							
17							
18	TOWN NON-BUDGET EXPENSES						
19	Trash & Special Pickup	3	58,100	72,000	75,000	77,250	79,568
20	Operations & Fees	4	13,650	15,500	15,500	15,800	16,700
21	Audit						
22	Printing, postage, phone, internet						
23	Administration						
24							
25	Long Term Debt(Sherwood Forest)		16,176	16,176	16,176	16,176	16,176
26							
27	State Aid and Grants	5					
28	Community Transportation Grant		0	0	0	0	0
29	Municipal Street Aid		0	14,116	7,050	7,100	7,100
30	Trails Renewal Grant		0	0	0	0	0
31							
32	Town Expenses	6					
33	Secretary		5,252	5,252	5,252	5,252	5,252
34	Treasurer		5,252	5,252	5,252	5,252	5,252
35	Town Payroll Taxes		1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680	1,680
36	Office Construction		0	0	0	0	0
37							
38	Buzz Ware Village Center Operations	7	26,000	31,948	29,710	30,387	31,044
39							
40							
41	SUBTOTAL TOWN NON-BUDGET EXPENSES		126,110	161,924	155,620	158,897	162,772

Arden Town Assembly
March 2011
Three Year Budget Look ahead

		2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
	NOTE	Appropriated	Appropriated	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
42						
43						
44	BUDGET EXPENSES					
45	Advisory	300	200	200	250	300
46	Archives	8 1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
47	Assessors	8 50	50	50	50	50
48	Buzz Ware Village Center Support	9 7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
49	Capital, Maintenance, and Repair Fund	10 0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
50						
51	Civic Committee					
52	Roads, Commons, Snow plowing	11 50,000	51,250	53,000	54,500	56,000
53						
54	Community Planning	8 1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
55	Forests	12 8,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
56	Playground	8 3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
57	Registration	13 1,000	200	200	200	200
58						
59	Safety Committee	13				
60	Safety - General		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
61	Harvey Road Speed Enforcement		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
62						
63	Donations	13				
64	ACRA		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
65	Arden Page		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
66	Arden Library		700	800	800	800
67	Fire Companies		1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
68	Arden Club Donation		0	500	400	400
69						
70	Gild Hall Rental	13 1,300		0	0	0
71	Contingencies	14 9,500	9,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
72						
73	SUBTOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES		89,890	96,540	99,690	101,240
74						
75	TOTAL TOWN EXPENSES	15	209,000	251,464	248,310	253,137
76						
77	TOTAL TRUSTEE & TOWN EXPENSES		643,056	699,429	686,642	707,970
78						
79						
80	BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER BREAKOUT					
81	Expected expenses		26,000	31,948	29,710	30,387
82						
83	operational income and donations	16 23,200	23,500	23,500	23,500	23,500
84	trustee rental	17		2,400	2,500	2,700
85						
86	town support needed	18 2,800	6,048	3,710	4,287	4,844
87						
88	TOTAL EXPENSE TO TOWN	19	2,800	8,448	6,210	6,887
89						
90	TOTAL TRUSTEE & TOWN EXPENSES	20	619,856	675,929	663,142	706,498



The Village of
ARDEN
est. 1981
2119 The Highway
Wilmington
Delaware 19810

«you are welcome hither»