

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday April 13, 2016

Present: Ray Seigfried, Cynthia Dewick, Mark Wood and Dan McNeil

Member Absent: Ron Meick and Sally Sharp

Sub-Committee Present: None

Meeting called to order by Cynthia Dewick as the Designated Convener at 7:03 PM. Mark Wood was elected and Cynthia Dewick was re-elected in the March 2016 election.

Mark Wood was first welcomed to the Committee. Cynthia Dewick then recommended Ray Siegfried as the Committee Chairman which was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the meeting for March 2016 was reviewed, discussed and approved by those committee members in attendance.

The topics addressed in this meeting include: (1) Vacant Housing Ordinance; (2) Firearms in Public Facilities; (3) Comprehensive Land Use Plan / Village Transformation Project; and (4) Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committees

Guest Appearance: None

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Ray indicated that the C.P.C. has completed its required responsibilities under the Village Ordinance for C.Y. 2015. The process for identifying violations for the next fiscal year will begin during Q4_2016.

House Bill 192 - Firearms in Public Facilities

Over the past year, Ray has expressed an interest in formulating a firearms policy, specifically within Gild Hall and the Buzz Ware Community Center. Earlier this year, Ray met with the Arden Club which passed a motion in support of this initiative.

Delaware State Law currently permits the local jurisdiction to establish an ordinance precluding the possession of a firearm during an official open meeting. It is also the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to post sufficient notification and signage of this ordinance, and to pay for the presence of the County Police at these open meeting. The number of police officers typically required is based on the number of entrances.

A prospective ordinance is technically possible, however, the burden and cost of administration and security may preclude its feasibility. Ray is preparing a presentation for the upcoming Village Assembly in June 2016.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan & Village Transformation Project

Discussion on the stewardship of open public space and creation of a land use plan was identified in the September 2015 C.P.C. meeting as worthy of future discussion and potential action through the C.P.C. It was suggested that a Village Approved Master Land Use Plan created with professional assistance could address these questions/concerns in a comprehensive format.

Jeff Politis as Village Chairman has indicated in past C.P.C. meetings a strong interest in actively investing available funds in projects benefiting the Village. Both Jeff and Ray feel that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Transformation Project reflect a dynamic synergy which potentially can be very beneficial to the Village Of Arden.

Ray provided a draft "Mission Statement" on establishing an ad-hoc committee to identify "Transformational Projects". The draft was reviewed and discussed. Ray projects to have the "Mission Statement" completed for introduction to the June 2016 Village Assembly.

Over the past several months, Ray has been in contact with the Institute For Public Policy at the University of Delaware. Ray believes that the I.P.P. may be helpful in formulating and executing plans for both land use and special transformative projects. On-going discussions will likely continue with the I.P.P. as this initiative develops.

In addition, our County Representative (John Cartier) provided Ray with a list of local attorneys specializing in land use. Ray mentioned that a review of the covenants, conditions and restrictions in the 1973 deed between the

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Trustees of Arden and the Village of Arden lead him to request this list of attorneys from our county rep. Ray indicated that (7) common area tracts of forest and green space were conveyed to the Village as part of its incorporation in accordance with State Law. Ray's interpretation of the "CC&R's has lead to a serious concern on the legal ramifications regarding legally permitted uses/changes to the common areas without a Village Referendum. This is related to recent civic improvements on the "Green" and an easement to an individual leasehold for water runoff.

A legal opinion was never prepared at the time of the conveyance in 1973 and the issue has never been raised. In light of the aforementioned, Ray deems it necessary to first retain an attorney specializing in land use law for the purpose of preparing a legal opinion addressing the covenants, conditions and restricts affecting the (7) common area tracts of forest and green space. It is felt that the services of the I.P.P. at the University of Delaware can then be more optimally utilized.

Ray proposed using the monies collected from the Village's Vacant Housing Ordinance in order to cover the legal fees. The members of the C.P.C. were in general agreement with this idea since the legal opinion will benefit the community. In addition, Ray requested a motion to support retaining the legal services of a land use attorney. A motion was made and seconded.

Ray will now address with the Village Chairman and prepare a presentation for the upcoming Village Assembly in June.

Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

There was no update on the Community Garden or The Memorial Garden.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 8:01 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.