

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

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday June 17, 2015

Present: Ray Seigfried, Cynthia Dewick, Larry Strange, Ron Meick and Dan McNeil

Sub-Committee Present: Toby Ridings – Community Garden

Absent: Sally Sharp

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as the Committee Chairman at 7:05 PM

The minutes of the meeting for May 2015 were reviewed, discussed and approved.

The topics addressed in this meeting include: (1) Village Employee Hiring Practice; (2) Schroeder Trust Fund; (3) FEMA Resolution, (4) Vacant Housing Ordinance and (5) Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committees

Guest Appearance: Jeff Politis as Village Chairman

Village's Employee Hiring Practice

In the April 2015 meeting Larry Strange questioned the current process for deciding whether a prospective job candidate is hired as an employee of the Village or as a private vendor under a contract with the Village. As you may recall, Larry also brought up this same topic at the May 2014 meeting of the C.P.C. Recent activities at the B.W.V.C. has, however, lead Larry to once again question the current approval process.

Ray indicated that this topic was addressed in the June 2015 Advisory Meeting. Ray further advised that the contract between the B.W.V.C. and current manager expired on March 25, 2015. The status of the existing contract is reported to automatically convert to a month to month arrangement subsequent to the expiration of the original term. Jeff Politis indicated that a new contract is either under negotiation or has already been renewed, but suggested deferring to Steven Threefoot for clarification.

Both Ray and Larry reiterated the need for the Village to have an official and "best practices" policy on Village employment.

Schroeder Trust Fund

Jeff Politis as Village Chairman indicated a strong interest in actively investing the funds in projects benefiting the Village. Jeff would like to manage all future investment proposals through the C.P.C. Ray and the C.P.C. members agreed to oversee the management of these future proposals.

F.E.M.A. Resolution

Ray has been diligently working over the past year with John Cartier (Arden's County Representative) and Dave Carpenter (County's FEMA Specialist) on the Village's official induction into the F.E.M.A. program. The application has been approved by both New Castle County and the State of Delaware and on May 29, 2015 was reported to have been officially submitted to F.E.M.A. for approval.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

The Village of Arden as an incorporated village has the legal right to continue administering its own program in lieu of participating within New Castle County's program. This was affirmed by consensus at the Village Assembly in March 2015 that the Village of Arden will continue to administer its own program. An official resolution stating such must first be delivered to New Castle County.

An official resolution has still not been issued as of the date of this meeting. Consequently, Ray will look into getting this official resolution executed and delivered since timing is now critical. Timing is critical since the Village of Arden will not be able to file any liens until New Castle County receives and acknowledges our decision.

Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

There were no updates on the Memorial Garden.

Toby Ridings, for the Community Garden, indicated that (24) plots have been assigned for the 2015 season with all requests accommodated. The (24) plots are being used by (17) Arden residents, (4) Ardencroft residents and (3)

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Ardentown residents. An operational and financial presentation will be prepared for the Village Assembly in September 2015.

Ray recommended postponing our monthly meeting for July and August, but reconvening in September. All C.P.C. members voiced agreement with this plan.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 8:00 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.