

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden
Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday September 16, 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 7:04 PM

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

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

Guest Appearance: Barbara Shippy

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 was approved by both New Castle County and the State of Delaware and on May 29, 2015 was officially submitted for approval to F.E.M.A. The application was subsequently returned with F.E.M.A. requesting updated mapping information. Ray will continue to follow up and move toward final approval and enrollment in the program.

Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

There were no updates on the Memorial Garden.

Toby Ridings, for the Community Garden, indicated that (24) plots were assigned for the 2015 season with all requests accommodated with a plot. The (24) plots were used by (17) Arden residents, (4) Ardencroft residents and (3) Ardentown residents. Ray indicated that this positive outcome will be reported to the upcoming Village Assembly.

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 was finally delivered to the County stating such, however, it still had not been acknowledged and approved.

Ray subsequently requested our county representative (John Cartier) to set up a meeting with the County Attorney in order to help expedite approval. A meeting has been arranged for later this week and Ray will continue to pursue acknowledgement and acceptance by the County of the Village's ordinance. Timing is now critical since the Village of Arden will not file any liens without NCC approval of this ordinance.

Schroeder Trust Fund

In the May 2015 C.P.C. meeting, Jeff Politis as Village Chairman indicated a strong interest in actively investing the funds in projects benefiting the Village. Ray and the C.P.C. members agreed to oversee the management of these future proposals. Ray is now trying to bring together several committees for the purpose of collaborating at developing worthwhile projects benefiting the Village.

Barbara Shippy expressed the need for first developing a comprehensive plan addressing the needs of the Village's residents as well as for overseeing the protection of the Village Green.

Village's Employee Hiring Practice

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. Ray indicated that the topic was

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addressed in the June 2015 Advisory Meeting, but nothing conclusive was forthcoming. Ray and Larry both reiterated the need for the Village to have an official and “best practices” policy on Village employment.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:59 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.