

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

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday October 21, 2015

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

Member Absent: Larry Strange, Sally Sharp

Sub-Committee Present: None

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as the Committee Chairman at 7:03 PM

The minutes of the meeting for September 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) Comprehensive Land Use Plan; (5) Schroeder Trust Fund; (6) Firearms in Public Facilities; and (7) American Disabilities Act (A.D.A).

Guest Appearance: Jeff Politis, Village Chairman on Schroder Trust, State Law on Firearms in Public Facilities and A.D.A. Compliance (American Disabilities Act).

### **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 or by the Community Garden.

### **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 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 was arranged and the County Attorney agreed to approve and submit to the County Council for final approval at its November 2015 meeting. 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.

### **Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

Discussion on the stewardship of open public space and creation of a land use plan have been identified as worthy of future discussion and potential action through the C.P.C. Cynthia indicated that a Village Approved Master Land Use Plan created with professional assistance could address these questions/concerns in a comprehensive format. It was decided to explore initial assistance through the University of Delaware and Temple University which have established programs for such in their Schools of Public Policy/Government, et al.

### **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. Jeff reiterated the same message in tonight's meeting, but now suggested beginning a substantive discussion in the next C.P.C. Meeting. Ray agreed to start the November meeting at 6:30PM in order to begin a discussion.

## **C.P.C Minutes – October 2015 Meeting**

**Page 2**

### **Firearms in Public Facilities**

The topic of firearms in public facilities has moved to the forefront in light of an armed resident attending the public assemblies of the Village of Ardencroft over the past one to two years. This presence has created a severe tension in the village assembly, thus necessitating attendance by County Police.

Ray indicated an interest in pursuing the creation of a Village Ordinance prohibiting firearms in public facilities. Ray further indicated that this action is permissible under Delaware State Law. Ray would like to pursue this ordinance with assistance through our State Representatives and through open community forums.

### **American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.)**

Village compliance with this federal legislation has become a topic of discussion in the Village of Arden. Jeff Politis indicated that the Village is not in compliance and a plan is needed in order to start moving towards it. While it may take a prolonged period of time to reach compliance, an effective detailed plan is nonetheless critical in maintaining a strong relationship with New Castle County Government. Jeff would like several of the Village's Committees to begin this process towards creation of an acceptable plan of action.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 8:13 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.