

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden
Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday November 19, 2014

Present: Ray Seigfried, Ron Meick and Dan McNeil

Absent: Cynthia Dewick, Larry Strange and Sally Sharp

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:09 PM

Ray indicated that a C.P.C. meeting will not be held in December 2014.

The topics addressed in this meeting include: (1) F.E.M.A. Resolution; (2) Vacant Housing – 2101 Marsh Road; (3) Village of Arden Community Garden; and (4) Nominations For March 2015 Election

Guest Appearance: Bill Theis, Chairman of the Village's Advisory Committee

F.E.M.A. Resolution

Ray has been diligently working during C.Y. 2014 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. Ray reports that the application is currently being reviewed by the State of Delaware.

The Village of Arden is officially operating under the County's Land Use Ordinances. The State is now requesting an official letter from the Village Of Arden stating that it recognizes and operates under the Land Use Ordinances of New Castle County, Delaware. In addition, the State requests that the Village of Arden will immediately and officially notify the State if the Village withdraws from this governance.

Ray will work with the Town Chairman in preparing an official response to the State of Delaware.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Ray indicated that the preliminary list of homes vacant in excess of one year identifies 12+/- leaseholds. The official letter requesting compliance will be mailed shortly to each address. It is the responsibility of the leasehold estate to satisfactorily prove compliance with the ordinance or to request a one time waiver.

Ray reports that Village Of Arden Trustee Mike Curtis continues to work with the daughter of the deceased owner of 2101 Marsh Road on resolving the chain of title. As discussed in the C.P.C. meeting minutes of October 2014, this vacant home has been in violation of the Village's Vacant Housing Ordinance as well as multiple New Castle County Ordinances related to appearance and safety. The property is in a serious state of disrepair and is effectively uninhabitable and an eyesore to the surrounding homes.

The house has been vacant for 10+/- years since the death of its long standing owner and an unresolved chain of title continues to preclude any governmental action in eliminating this violation. Mike and the Village Attorney (Ted Rosenthal) are continuing to work with the daughter in resolving this problem.

Community Garden Club

The Community Garden Club, as discussed in the October 2014 minutes, is very interested in its official recognition by the Village of Arden and designation as a sub-committee of an existing committee. This request follows a motion made at the Village Assembly of January 2009 to more closely examine the organization with the intention of officially recognizing it. There has, however, been no action on this motion until C.Y. 2014.

During C.Y. 2014, Toby Ridings and Alex Rudzinski appeared at (3+/-) C.P.C. meetings with the intention of finally achieving recognition. Background and financial information have regularly been provided.

Ray discussed this topic with the Advisory Committee in June 2014, however, no action was taken at the September 2014 Village Assembly. In the October 2014 meeting, Ray indicated that the chairman's of the Buzz Ware Center and Civic Committee will be invited to a future Community Planning Committee meeting in order to discuss expediting the group's official recognition. This will likely occur at the C.P.C.'s monthly meeting in January 2015.

Nominations For Upcoming Election in March 2015

Ray indicated nominations for the Community Planning Committee are required for the election in March 2015. Five names are required for the two members up for re-election. Ray indicated that Dan McNeil and Ron Meick

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will once again be placed on the ballot along with Mark Wood and Sally Sharp who have agreed to participate. Ray requested that committee members come up with an additional name.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:37 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.