The April 25, 1944, meeting of the Town Assembly of Arden, Del.

The meeting was held at Gild Hall, Arden, and was presided over by Trustee Ware.

After the Chairman had declared a quorum to be present, the minutes of the January 25 meeting were read. The following correction was requested by Mrs. Frances Harrison and approved by the Secretary. The statement, "Mrs. Frances Harrison suggested that the Town Assembly take a more active part in running the school" was changed to "Mrs. Frances Harrison stated that she thought it would be nice if the Town Assembly were informed of school activities". The corrected minutes were approved.

The Secretary reported that he had written to the State Board of Education as requested expressing the desire of the Town Assembly that the school facilities in the vicinity of Arden be investigated and that consideration be given to the setting up of a special school district and to the erection of a school building in this vicinity. The State Board of Education replied stating that it had authorized a survey of the Arden neighborhood in light of the request of the residents of Arden.

Mimeographed copies of the finance report for the fiscal year 1943-44, a copy of which is attached, were submitted by the Trustees.

Detailed reports of the activities of the Civic Committee and the Registrars Committee, copies of which are attached were presented by Chairman Herman Kumme and Chairman Mary Morley respectively. The reports were accepted.

Edith Ware and Myer Pressman reported progress for the Community Planning Committee and the Budget Committee respectively.

Frank Harrison reported for the Board of Assessors stating that the Board would hold its first meeting in July.

Chairman Frances Harrison reported for the special school committee. The Committee which was appointed by Trustee Ware, Chairman of the Town Assembly, consisted of the following members: Frances Harrison, Clement Wood, Raymond Billerbeck, Edward Downs, Maria Hurlong, and Gladys Frank, Secretary. The report showed that the committee had studied the present condition of the Arden school, the history of the school, the state school laws, the financial statements of the Arden school and similar Delaware schools, had consulted with all individuals and groups of individuals directly concerned with the school, and ha

carried at some conclusions as to how the school situation could be remedied in this district both for the present and for the future. The report was accepted.

Mrs. Liberman moved that the Town Assembly congratulate the Committee on the exhaustive study it had made. The motion was seconded and approved. Chairman We are congratulated the Committee on behalf of the meeting.

Mr. Bloom moved that the special School Committee be held intact so that it could formulate a plan as indicated in its report. The motion was seconded.

Frances Harrison stated that in order to arrive at the best plan it would be necessary that the Board of School Trustees, the Parent Teachers Association, the Community Planning Committee, and all other interested groups work together.

Henry Aughey stated that the Town Assembly School Committee could not work alone on the school plan, since adjoining neighborhoods such as Ardentown must have a say in the plan. He recommended that the Civic Committee and the Board of School Trustees work together as a joint executive committee in charge of drawing up a school plan.

Mrs. Liberman said that it would be a shame to allow the work of the School Committee to die out contending that the Board of School Trustees could obtain considerable assistance from the committee.

Clement Wood stated that in order that the school committee operate successfully, it would be necessary for it to work directly with the Board of School Trustees, since no authority to initiate a school plan could be granted the Committee by the Town Assembly. He expressed the willingness and desire of the School Committee to work with the Board of School Trustees.

Mr. Bloom said that he thought an acceptable procedure would be that the School Committee develop a plan & submit it to the Town Assembly, the plan if accepted being subsequently presented to the School Trustees.

Trustee ~~Co~~ Cohen stated that in his opinion no halo surrounds a school board Trustee. If a Trustee is not acceptable to the people, he would not likely be reappointed by the resident Judge. He suggested that the School Trustees meet with the School Committee from the Town Assembly and arrive at a joint plan.

Henry Angley again emphasized the fact that other districts such as Ardentown must be

invited to participate in the formulation of any school plan.

Frances Harrison pointed out that the Arden School Trustees are responsible for the initiation of any new plan for the school, not the State Board of Education.

Henry Aughey ~~stated~~ suggested that since the State Board of Education was in the process of making a survey of the school situation in and around Arden, the Town Assembly await the results of this survey before participating in the formulation of a plan.

Herman Kumme stated that if the State survey was completed prior to the drawing up of plans for the school, the school trustees and the School Committee might obtain considerable assistance from it.

The motion by Mr. Bloom was approved.

Herman Kumme, Chairman of the Civic Committee, emphasized the considerable expense connected with the cleaning of the sidewalks, the sidewalks being the strips of land between the leaseholds and the roads. He moved that the Town Assembly direct the Civic Committee to consider the cleaning and repairing of the sidewalks adjoining each lot to be the responsibility of the respective leaseholder. The motion

was seconded.

Mr. Gerstine stated that the Civic Committee could not enforce such a directive but could only exert pressure via public opinion.

The motion by Mr. Kumme was approved.

Mr. Kumme reported that a serious drainage problem existed in the vicinity of the Missimer leasehold which threatened to bring action by the State Board of Health unless it was promptly eliminated. He pointed out that the main cause of this condition seemed to be the many breaks in the town drainage line running from Grubb's road through the Hetzel and Missimer leaseholds. Mr. Kumme further stated that since no funds had been directly allocated for repairs to such drains, it would either be necessary to use funds earmarked for road repairs or submit a referendum to the residents of Arden asking for funds to cover this project.

Mrs. Gladys Frank moved that the Civic Committee be directed to make every effort to obtain funds from the state to repair the drainage line through the Hetzel and Missimer leaseholds and if the Civic Committee should fail to obtain such funds from the state, the Registration Committee

be directed to submit a special referendum to the people to obtain the necessary funds, the exact amount to be determined by the Civic Committee. The motion was seconded.

Myer Pressman asked the cost of a referendum. The Secretary replied that it would cost approximately seventy five dollars.

Mr. Bloom and Mr. Peterson expressed the opinion that the upkeep of the roads depended upon proper drainage and thus, repairs to a drainage line which carried water from the roads could be handled with funds allocated for road repairs.

Mrs. Frank withdrew her motion.

Mrs. Frances Harrison moved that this drainage problem be considered a road drainage problem and that the Civic Committee be asked to use a portion of the funds allocated for road repairs to cover the cost of repairing the drainage line. The motion was seconded and approved.

Myer Pressman asked the Trustees to enforce their right as stated in the leases to have leaseholders dispose of their sewage in a proper manner.

Mr. Kumme stated that the Civic Committee planned on operating

the swimming pool in the same manner as it has been operated in the past, borrowing from the Town funds to cover initial expenditures and turning all income over to the town account. The cost for the privilege to use the pool was to be one, two, and five dollars for residents, guests, and certain non-residents, respectively. No objection to this plan was offered.

Mr. Kumme pointed out that $128.75 of the funds allocated for school repairs for the budget period from October 25, 1943, to March 25, 1944, had not been expended. The money had been earmarked for the purchase of storm sash, but the installation of storm sash was deemed inadvisable in view of the absence of a fresh air circulating system in the school. The School Trustees had requested permission to use this money for other repairs during the present budget period. Mr. Kumme asked that the Assembly meeting give the Civic Committee permission to grant this request.

Mr. Clement Wood moved that funds left over from the first budget period for school repairs be used in the present period. The motion was seconded and approved.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the meeting adjourn.

Signed - R. W. Peterson