The regular meeting of the Town Assembly was held on January 24, 1955 at the Field Hall with Trustee Wade presiding.

After a quorum was declared present the minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

A communication from the State Highway Department refusing our request for a stop light at the intersection of Marsh and Harvey Roads was read. The letter states that more adequate road signs would be installed.

The financial report of the Trustees was read and a copy is on file. H.D. Ware read a statement from the trustees referring to a letter from them to the May, 1954 meeting. This letter had referred to a petition and a letter from a lawyer engaged by two resident of Arden asking that the Trustees not open the lots in the Sherwood Forest. This letter stated that the Trustees felt the question of the right of the Trustees to lease land had been questioned and that the answer to this question would have to be answered by the Court of Chancery.

The Trustees reported they had retained William Prickett as their attorney. He had prepared a draft of complaints for the Trustees but his fee requested was too high. Therefore they settled his fee for $250 for work done up to that time. The Trustees have checked further and believe that the matter can be resolved for an expenditure of about $2000.00 and they have informed the leaseholders they propose to engage counsel to obtain the opinion that they need

in order to be advised as to how to carry out the terms of the Trust. A copy of this report is on file.

There was considerable discussion of this report but a motion was made and passed that the Trustees report be filed for future action.

Civic Committee reported town work being carried out regularly. Two benches are to be constructed at the pool. Report accepted.

Assessors + Budget - no report.

Community Planning Committee: Had a meeting and discussed damage done by the hurricane. They will get in touch with the Civic Committee concerning planting of trees from the nursery to other spots in Elden.

Registration committee reported that the items of the Budget were all accepted by the November referendum and that the following Assessors were elected. Frank Harrison, Henry Cushey, Samuel Freeman, Cecil Liberman, John Walker, John Page, Edmund Curtis.

Bylaws committee had no report but Mr. John Page requested that they study the definition of a resident as outlined in the Bylaws and to see if there is any legal way to change our definition to meet with the requirement of the Deed of Trust that would place more responsibility upon the resident to be placed on the resident voters list. It was suggested they ask a lawyer in town for an opinion.

The Registration committee conducted the election for three members of the Budget

Committee and declared following elected: Albee Williams, Kurt Seligman, Harold Monfort.
The following were nominated to serve on the Civic Committee to be elected at the March meeting: George Cleaver, Leon Tanzer, Arthur Stevenson.
Mr Henry Aughey made the following motion: "Be it resolved for the good of Arden that the Trustees be requested to desist in any action leading to ~~new~~ new leases of town commons and woodlands and that no further monies be expended for this purpose.
This motion was discussed fully.
Edith Brooks stated that there has never been any question of right of Trustees to lease land, but that it is a question of what is best for the town. The forest acts as a border protecting Arden from rapidly encroaching communities.
Mr Dolmetsch feels there is no need to check legality of the action of the Trustees, but inasmuch as Trustees are not owners of the land but are trustees for the leaseholders, the wishes of the leaseholders should be considered in this case.
Another resident stated the Trustees were not acting democratically in this instance and had made no attempt to bring this matter to an amicable agreement. To enter the courts would entail a lot of unnecessary research and expense.
Mr Monfort stated that he did not recall that the petition threatened any legal action and those that were to get residents to sign the

petition had been asked not to make statements not substantiated by facts. He felt that before going to court, that the whole question be studied thoroughly.

Mr. J. B. Finkelstein stated that he would be willing to meet with those who do not want to leave the woodlands.

One resident felt it is the moral if not legal duty to carry out the desire of the majority of the resident.

There was some discussion concerning the waiting list and the fact that other people have asked for land in Arden and have been told that there were no lands available.

Mr. Jaffe stated that he felt the Trustees had full right to open up any land and that he as one of the people who had applied for the land in writing would not give up in the fight to have this matter settled.

It was suggested that a committee from the Town Assembly and the Trustees should get together and try to establish an amicable settlement of the issue.

Inasmuch as no land had been opened in the woodlands for some time it seemed as though a precedent had been established and that Arden had become a closed corporation and some of the residents wanted assurance as to how far the Trustees would go in opening the commons.

Mr. Jaffe asked Mr. Aughy to withdraw his motion but the motion came to a vote and was approved 21 ayes and 9 nays.

A motion was made and passed that the Town Assembly elect a committee of three to meet with the Trustees of Arden to settle the matter of new leases amicably if possible.

The following were nominated: Edith Ware, Harold Monfort, Kurt Seligman, Michael Jaffe, William Morley, Henry Aughey, Earl Brooks, Edna Page, Arthur Stevenson, Samuel Freeman.

The Registration Committee conducted the election and reported the following elected: Kurt Seligman, Harold Monfort, Earl Brooks.

Safety Committee to handle the situation of tearing up of greens by cars driving across them.

H P Ware said that a special meeting will be called concerning the water situation and proposed development at Noonan and Marsh Roads of 400 houses.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Morley