

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on January 27, 1986, Chairman William Press presiding.

In attendance were:

Sarah S. Hamburger  
Bill Press  
Patricia Press  
Greg Condiff  
Lanier Colgan  
Betty Knott  
Harvey Neal  
Rae Gerstine  
Steve Tanzer  
Frank Akutowicz  
Alex Sykulski  
Eugene Shaw  
Don Berman  
Marge Roberts  
Virginia Shaw  
Romeo Hubner  
Hugh Roberts

Ed Rohrbach  
Vera Berk  
Susan Rohrbach  
Aaron Hamburger  
Shaul Gladstone  
John Berk  
Leon Tanzer  
Jean K. Brachman  
Loretta Gallagher  
Andrew Gallagher  
Joan W. Colgan  
Tim Colgan  
Lee Starr  
Bernard Brachman  
Tom Colgan  
Ruth Holcomb

Elizabeth Varley Walker  
Gail Rinehart  
Ethel Monfort  
John Landis  
Larry Walker  
Don Holcomb  
Connee Wright McKinney  
Bob Wynn (NV)  
Kate Threefoot  
Steven Threefoot  
Drew Burslem  
Cecilia Vore  
Naomi Clark  
Dane Miller  
John Grimaldi  
Paul Thompson

The chairman convened the meeting by commenting on the growing problem of the length of town meetings. The late hours cause people to leave before the business of the assembly is finished. Advisory Committee will be forming a committee to study possible solutions.

Minutes of the September Assembly were corrected. The correction of the June minutes should refer to the special trash pick-up rather than the special garbage pick-up. Minutes of the regular September meeting and the special January meeting were approved as corrected.

Communications

- o A letter from Harold Monfort will be read under New Business.
- o The Secretary has a letter on file from the American Cancer Society offering educational programs.

Trustees Report - Shaul Gladstone

The Trustees' drew up a series of criteria for selecting a replacement for the retired Cy Liberman, conducted a series of interviews, and based on the above, submitted the name of Houston Roberts as Trustee - designate to the Registration Committee.

A referendum to confirm the nominee is underway. All residents with the six month residency requirement are strongly urged to vote for this third generation Ardenite whom we are certain will well serve the Village.

The Trustees have hired Beverly Laws of Ardentown to serve as Secretary to the Board, and to assist Administrative Assistant Rae Gerstine.

Rent bills for 1986-1987 are being prepared.

Rental collections are essentially current. It was unfortunately necessary to engage in legal action to achieve that state, and it is sincerely hoped that we can avoid such steps in the future.

The Trustees appeared at a New Castle County Board of Adjustment hearing and opposed a request to divide a leasehold



into two portions, each less than 7,000 square feet.

The bank balance, as of December 31, 1985 was \$65,872.27.

Arden must begin to budget for the loss of Revenue Sharing funds which will be discontinued soon. Municipal Street Aid money is also shaky since the State Highway Dept. will be losing income.

### Standing Committee Reports

#### Buzz Ware Village Center - Connee McKinney

The new heating system at the Center is operational; however, a few dampers have yet to be installed on some individual units. The contractor hopes to have the job completed in about a week. The final payment to the contractor for \$5840 or 25% of the total bill will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the job.

The Center is now in full compliance with the safety regulations of our insurance company. Emergency lights, two more smoke detectors and an additional exit sign have been installed for about \$400.

Because of a leak in the roof, repairs had to be made to the roof and the wall in the boys' bathroom. The work is now complete and the bill for \$904 has been paid.

This committee has agreed to begin organizing an Afterschool Enrichment Program for Arden children. This program will probably be one day a week and start in the fall. The first area that the program will concentrate on will be music in the broadest sense of the word. More details will be forthcoming in the Arden Page and the next town meeting. Because of our limited budget, community involvement will be essential to make the program a success so please don't hesitate to offer up your ideas or talents. "Music" can encompass dance, games, singing, history and the like. This may be a modest beginning but there is wonderful musical talent in Arden and this is an area where the community can make a difference.

This committee is also compiling the material necessary for the state's Bicentennial Improvement Fund. The deadline for the grant is mid-February.

There were 80 meetings of various community groups at the Center in 1985 and the committee encourages this use.

Unfortunately, we have to report that there was a break-in at the Center on Saturday night. The person or persons entered through the modules and damage was done there and in the main building. A few items and a small amount of money were taken but the motivation appears to be more to make a mess than theft. The police are involved and this committee and the Wilmington Montessori Assoc. will be sorting out insurance coverage.

#### Civic - presented by Gene Shaw for Gail Rinehart

As noted in the Page, we have been able to complete several road projects this fall. We do feel that after 3 years, we have finally found a contractor who will maintain an interest in doing this type of work for the town.

The garbage contract will be renewed in March with Laxton for \$38,000. At this point Paul Thompson has been able to talk Laxton down from his original estimate of \$450/load to \$350/load for the special town-wide cleanup in May.

Paul and Leon are initiating contacts with a structural engineer, environmentalists, and the Arden Club as we begin to explore solutions to the erosion problem in the Memorial Grove and Garden areas. The Community Planning Committee is participating in



these discussions.

We will be having some tree work done soon. The debris will be hauled away while the wood will be left for the residents.

We have had 2 trash barrels taken from the Green this fall. We have replaced one and will replace the other in the spring.

#### Community Planning - Frank Akutowicz

Ed Rohrbach has agreed to be liaison person with the Civic Committee.

Creek/woods cleanup will be held jointly this year with Ardentown.

The committee is rescinding their motion of the September meeting to transfer enforcement responsibility for ordinance #13 to Safety Committee. A procedure to enforce the parking ordinance is in place; basically to proceed after receiving complaints.

Members of the committee attended 5 meetings with outside groups on matters directly involving Arden:

1. With Radnor Green/Northridge Civic Associations to exchange information and coordinate opposition to the Baldini/YMCA development.
2. With Senator Myrna Bair on highway matters. Sen. Bair seems to have a more active connection with the State Highway people than Rep. G. Smith. We are going to use her to present Arden's position on Harvey Rd. to the State. Sen. Bair also gave Highway engineering recommendations for speed bumps. This design is punitive to high speed crossings, but lets slow speeds glide through without effect. We've transmitted the design to the Civic Committee.
3. With Patterson/Schwartz, Baldini, Ardentown, Ardencroft, Windybush. Baldini outlined the compromise he was willing to reach with the area communities.
4. With Ardencroft and Windybush to coordinate the approval of the Baldini/YMCA development.
5. With the New Castle County Planning Board at which I argued for a substantial reduction in the number of proposed units. There were 7 or 8 other people from Radnor Green, Ardencroft, and Ardentown who also made this point. The Planning Board, however, refused to diminish the units so it will be 86 units on 10 acres with 15 acres to Ardencroft as dedicated parkland.

#### Playground - Larry Walker

During the past quarter, the required inspections of the playground equipment were made. Any necessary repairs were made, and additional mulch added as needed. All of the equipment is in safe and satisfactory condition.

The committee has ordered a park bench identical to the two benches installed on the Village Green. We propose to install it on the Sherwood Green near the sliding board. We will also install an infant seat on the set of swings nearest the sliding board. Another infant seat will be installed in the tot lot in the existing swing set. If there are other opinions in the community on where the park bench should be installed, please contact a committee member to make your views known.

#### Registration - Virginia Shaw

There are 391 residents eligible to vote on this date.



The committee conducted the annual fiscal referendum in October-November, 1985. The Assessors elected are: William Press, Temma Tanzer, Eugene Shaw, Harold Monfort, Bernard Brachman, Ruth Holcomb and Ron Enie, with John Hewlett as alternate. The budget was approved as presented. On the Assessment appeal there was no majority. The Charter and By-laws both fail to state specifically what the procedure must be in such cases.

In subsequent search of the pertinent minutes, we found that such a situation had in fact arisen twice before; in each instance the Assessors' report had stood, regardless of plurality, but there was no specific ruling supporting the precedent. It appears to have been simply taken for granted. We also found several other matters on which there is uncertainty or ambiguity. We have a definite concern about these loose ends and the grounds they give for unnecessary friction. We presented the matter to the Advisory Committee earlier this month.

At the request of the Trustees we are currently conducting a referendum on the confirmation of Houston Roberts as a Trustee. The ballots are coming in well, but we wish to remind voters of the deadline (midnight, Monday, February 3). We also urge everyone to vote. A clearly expressed opinion, whether yes or no, results in better community feeling. Ballots will be counted on February 4 at 7:30 PM at the BWVC.

#### Safety - Tom Colgan

The committee again reviewed its function; does it monitor or enforce safety? The conclusion - its main function is to monitor. However, there will be times when it feels compelled to enforce; such as swearing out warrants for repeated violations after warnings have been given. Of course, we continue to erect signs, advise residents and maintain contact with the police. We have had interviews with the magistrate, the Attorney General and the police on enforcing Arden Safety regulations - and we will continue to pursue these areas.

We reviewed the necessity of having a part-time policeman for the summer months. The cost is \$20.50 per hour with a minimum of 3 hours. (Shaul Gladstone advised that the cost has been reduced to \$13 per hour). We would be interested in hearing how Town Meeting feels about this. We feel that citizens alert to unusual happenings in the community and calling the police is the best protection.

The Town has been invited to a seminar on fire safety through installation of a sprinkler system. Evidently a new system is available to private homes at a modest cost. A Safety Committee member will attend the seminar in Dover and will make a report to the residents.

It was noted that there are no Harvey or Grubb Rd. signs at the intersection of Marsh & Harvey. Civic Committee was asked to contact the State Highway Dept. about this matter.

Several residents urged the committee to institute the special summer patrols. Even if we can only afford a once a week patrol, the presence of uniformed police is a good deterrent. Special attention to problems in the woods is needed.

#### Old Business

The Trustees' method of choosing a Trustee candidate was questioned. Shaul Gladstone explained that it is up to the remaining Trustees to make the choice, residents have the oppor-



tunity to confirm or reject their choice.

### New Stile Sign

Ruth Holcomb reported that Walter Broadbent has carved a new stile sign. The Merry-Go-Rounders will supply new cedar posts and the Holcombs will install the sign which is a replica of the one that was vandalized.

### Nominations for Standing Committees

Audit: Mary Irons & James Schwaber, incumbents. Bill Bailey, Marianne Cinaglia, Joan Lussky, & Lee Starr

Budget: Drew Burslem, Clara Dossett, Mary Irons & Ralph Luker

Buzz Ware Village Center: Sue Rohrbach, incumbent. Ron Enie, John Landis, Bill Theis, & Susan Warner

Civic: Don Holcomb, Gene Shaw, & Paul Thompson, incumbents. Greg Condiff, John Dossett, & Art Hurwitz

Community Planning: Ed Rohrbach, incumbent. Maria Burslem, Clara Dossett, Romeo Hubner, & Steve Tanzer

Playground: Larry Walker, incumbent. Bob Jones, Dane Miller, Tim Moore, & Mason Morgan. Moore & Morgan later declined.

Registration: Lanier Colgan, Beatrice Jaffe, Patricia Press, & Virginia Shaw, incumbents. Ann Berlin, Maryellen Jobson, Elizabeth Knott, & Choe Morley

Safety: Don Berman & Tom Colgan & Fred Smith, incumbents. Ed Kelly, Barnes King, & Sam Starr

Town Assembly Chairman: Bill Press

Advisory Chairman: Don Berman, incumbent, & Larry Walker

Assembly Secretary: Sally Hamburger

Assembly Treasurer: Rae Gerstine

### New Business

#### Committee to study lengthy town meeting problem

Gail Rinehart will chair this committee which is to report to the June Advisory Committee. Volunteers solicited from the floor are: Don Berman, Hugh Roberts, Virginia Shaw, Paul Thompson, & Elizabeth Varley Walker.

#### Letter from Harold Monfort

I note that a number of ill conceived signs have been erected at road intersections on the perimeter of Arden reading: "Town of Arden - A Town Watch Community".

The Articles of Incorporation of The Village of Arden clearly prescribe, create, constitute and establish a municipal corporation and body politic forever by the name and style of: Village of Arden.

I see no reason why some person, committee, organization or other uninformed group should be allowed to erect such signs.

"Village of Arden" is the proper name for our community and I think we should diligently protect it against modification.

I believe those signs should be removed forthwith and further recommend that no signs be erected in Arden until reviewed and suitable method and place of erection prescribed by the Town Planning Committee, the Civic Committee or the Safety Committee.

#### Discussion:

The signs were erected by the Safety Committee at the direction of Town Assembly. Wording of the signs was not discussed. The sense of the meeting was that though the wording was a legitimate concern, the signs are effective and impressive and should remain. When and if the signs are vandalized, new ones will say "Village of Arden".

#### Meeting Adjourned.

*Sarah S. Hamburger*