The July 23, 1951 meeting of the Town Assembly of Arden was held in the Field Hall, Arden Delaware with Trustee Ware presiding.

The minutes of the July 2, 1951 minutes read and approved.

The Trustees financial report for period from June 25 to July 23 read and approved.

Civic Committee: The swamp is going to be finished and part of the Memorial Garden leveled and seeded. Rubbish collection notice will be mailed. A bad leak has developed in one of the walls, near the dam at the swimming pool. It will be necessary to have this section rebuilt. The engineer from the State Highway and Mr. Ware met to discuss the condition on Fire Lane leading to the Thomas, and Stevenson properties. A culvert will have to be built along Fire Lane but this will have to be put on the budget for next year. The report was accepted.

Assessors: The board of assessors with one dissenting vote, agreed to raise the base factor from $2.50 to $3.00 per 1000 square feet on the 100% lots for year 1952-1953. All other factors are to remain the same. The total income will be about 11,945. for 1952-53.

Donald Stephens said although he felt the assessors were making an effort to determine the fulbrental value he felt they should call in expert appraisers to assist them. He made a motion to have the Assessors report land on the table until next meeting and asked that the Assessors get some one of real authority like the Manufacturers appraisers to appraise the value of the land.

Mr. Stephen cited the fact that Ardentown land is assessed at 3.50 per 1000 and Ardencroft at 3.00 per thousand. He also said that the Assessors do not use the usually accepted summer method of valuation of 5% of the selling price but use an arbitrary 4%.

There was considerable discussion on the motion. Mr. Frank stated that although assessment of land should not be based on a budget nevertheless, it is necessary to consider the budget in order to cover expenses of running the town.

Mr. Harrison stated that he had studied assessment of land in areas around Arden which are based on front footage. If Arden land was assessed in the same way the rate would be as high as land outside of Arden. The motion was defeated.

Mr. Morley made an appeal to raise the base rate to $ 3.15 per thousand. There were 13 approved and 23 disapproved. The appeal was defeated and a motion to accept the Assessors report was accepted.

Budget Committee + Registration Committee no report.

Community Planning Committee: Mrs Aughey asked the resident of the town to present suggestions to the Committee. The report was accepted.

The Advisory Committee: Mr Morley reported that Mr. Philip Cook of Ardentown had been asked to coordinate all Civilian Defense in this area. The plans are not completed for organizing as yet, but there is need for everyone to cooperate with Mr. Cook.. Report accepted.

Safety Committee: The speeding and parking conditions seem to be improving. Report accepted.
Unfinished business: Mr. Ware reported meeting with the State Highway Engineer and explained his recommendation for the condition caused by excess water on the Thomas, Stevenson and Hay properties.
New business: Mr. Ware reported that he had attended the meeting of the Public Service Committee of the Arden Water Co. The water company had requested permission to raise the rate. This request has been put off for six months until more information can be gathered.
The Registration Committee conducted the election of the Community Planning Committee and reported the following people elected for a two year period. Eve Sauter, Lorenzo Jones, John Ware.
Mr. Frank suggested that we need a committee who could gather facts that pertain to action in the State etc. that affects the welfare of Arden. It was decided to ask the Community Planning Committee to do this worthwhile job.
Mrs. Morley made a motion that the town thank the musicians and for the service that they have done the town in providing wonderful music at the Vesper Services. Motion approved.
The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Morley