The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of Arden was held on July 25, 1955 with Trustee Wade presiding.

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

A communication from Ewart Roberts concerning his grievance against Civic Committee because ~~of~~ they checked into his drainage problem was read and an motion filed.

The financial report of the Trustees was read and the report is on file.

Mr Wade reported that the rent list and yearly financial report will be prepared and mailed with the referendum mailing.

Mr Albert Williams reported for the Civic Committee. A new drain has been made at Mill Lane on Mullen Road into the woods. That area has been cleaned out and the residents are requested not to dump hedge cuttings there now. The shoulder has been constructed on Meadowlane and holes in the Commons filled in but they all have to be seeded as soon as weather permits. Mr Williams reported that the Board of Health had checked into the Roberts situation and had orally reported to us that a sink from the front shop had been directly connected to the pipe leading into the sump pump. This is contrary to health rules and they have been ordered to correct this. ~~We~~ They will ask the Board of Health to make a written report of their findings and to send a copy to Mr. Roberts. Mrs Isbermann asked that the possibility of partial fencing of the pond be considered and that "No Trespassing" signs be erected. The report was accepted.

The report of the Assessors was read by Frank Harrison, chairman. The base rate will be raised from 3.50 to 3.67 per 1000 sq feet. The other factors will remain the same. It was also resolved that the Trustees be asked to print the rent list, assessors report and financial report for year 1954 and consider the practice in the future. The report was endorsed.

An amendment was made to raise the differential for lots bordering the woodlands to a $1,000 extra for the year but no amendments can be made to the Assessors report so no action was taken. A motion was made and seconded that the Assessors report be accepted.

Donald Stephen said the raise in base rate was a slight compromise but that the full rental value was not being assessed and he hoped the report would be voted down.

Mr. Jaffe suggested that when the Assessors make a report they justify their figure.

The Assessors said they had requested written reports from Ardentown and Ardencraft as to how they arrived at their assessments but had not received the information. Donald Stephen had given an oral report in 1954 but did not do this in 1955.

Mr. Frank Harrison spoke about the single tax method of land assessment of full rental value. He states that Arden land is assessed at 17% an acre by the Newcastle Board of Assessments, but the Arden Assessors ~~assed~~ assessed the land at $4228 an acre at 4% rate of interest which would make the base rate 3.67 a 1000 sq ft.

The total income for the year will be about $14544.
Mr Jaffe suggested that instead of figuring the assessment on the basis of the 83 acres of leased land it should be figured on the basis of the 163 acres in Arden which includes commons and woodlands because this land belongs to the residents in toto.
Mr Freeman and Mr Walker both spoke against the bitter personal attacks against the Assessors who have conscientously assessed the land at what they feel is the true rental value.
The motion to accept the report passed with 24 ayes and 21 nays.
Donald Stephens asked for a roll call vote which is recorded below:

Kurt Seligman	aye	Michael Jaffe	Nay
Albee Williams	"	Beatrice Jaffe	"
Samuel Leyton	"	Ingeborg Stephens	"
Joseph Kruger	"	Donald Stephens	"
Frank Harrison	"	Cora Potter	"
Earl Brooks	"	Emanuel Gerstine	"
Edith Brooks	"	Carolyn Liberman	"
Bertha Brooks	"	Marti Holden	"
Minnie Freeman	"	Rae Gerstine	"
Samuel Freeman	"	Grace Wan	"
Henry Aughey	"	Helen Cappel	"
John Walker	"	Ernest Wilson	"
Fred Bundrick	"	Edmund Curtis	"
Olan Vik	"	Charlotte Curtis	"
Katherine Hostler	"	David Ross	"
Manfred Hostler	"	Robert Allen	"
George Cleaver	"	Edward Arndt	"
Louis Lupstein	"	Ruth Estes	"
Morris Rosin	"	Lloyd Estes	"

Harley Savage Aye Jan Rudofker Nay.
Eve Santee Aye. Samuel Rudofker "
Herman Kunne Aye H D Ware "
William Morley "
Mary Morley Aye.

Community Planning Committee recommend that the Trustees of Arden Ardentown and Ardencroft study problem of widening Harvey Road and confer with the State Highway department about it. They are planning to plant a hemlock hedge in Woodland Theater to take the place of the broken fence that is used as a backdrop. They suggest that a pole be erected in the theater to carry in electricity.

Registration Committee report 392 residents. Safety Committee report that they are going to check bad corners and some of the placement of signs that may need changes.

The Registration Committee conducted the election of the Community Planning Committee and the following were elected to serve for two years: Herman Kunne, George Cleaver, and Edith Brooks.

The following were nominated to serve as assessors to be elected by referendum vote: Ernest Wilson, Henry Aughey, Michael Jaffe, Samuel Freeman, Edward Arndt, John Walker, Carolyn Liberman, Frank Harrison, Edmund Curtis, John Page, Floyd Estes, William Morley, David Ross, Herman Kunne, Edith Ware.

A resolution was made that a letter be written commemorating the passing of Katherine Ross. This is to be written by Donald Stephens & H D Ware.

Donald Stephens said that there are not as many bottles and debris on the Greens these days. He also recommended that wherever fill is made around trees they be walled.

On motion the following proposal is to be submitted to referendum. The proposal was submitted by Earl Brooks:

"I believe that both aesthetic values and land values in Arden would be adversely affected if any of the present common lands were to be leased to individuals for building purposes.

I therefore urge upon the Trustees of Arden a long term policy of maintaining as woodlands and commons all of the lands so designated as of July 25, 1955.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morley
Secretary.