

INSIDE: MARCH 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes

All Village of Arden
residents are encouraged
to attend the next

Town Meeting

Monday, June 22, 2009
Buzz Ware Village Center, 7:30 p.m.
2119 The Highway, Arden, Delaware

THE TOWN ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:

1. Motion to Document Transfer of Funds from the Trust to the Village.
2. Motion to Grant Waste Collection Contract Authorization.
3. Visit from Verizon Wireless Representative to discuss placing an antenna on the Water Tower.

All are welcome hither

Please note:

Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote if they have resided in the Village of Arden six months prior to the Meeting and are 18 years of age, or older.

Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (uncorrected)

Monday, March 23, 2009

Buzz Ware Village Center -Arden, DE

70 attendees:

Patrick Barry	Randi Narakoff
Ruth Bean	Betty O'Regan
Steven Blades	Denis O'Regan
Drumlin Brooke	Cookie Ohlson
Jennifer Borders	Ruth Panella
Brooke Bovard	Sam Panella
Lizzie Broadbent	Jeffery Politis
Alan Burslem	Gary E. Quinton
Maria Burslem	Liz Resko
Tiernan Harcourt (NV)	Debbie Ricard
Terry Ann Colgan	Clay Ridings
Felise Cressman	Toby Ridings
Mike Curtis	Hugh Roberts
Jane Claney (NV)	Charles Robinson
John Claney (NV)	Nanette Robinson
Dorinda Dove	Warren Rosenkranz
Cynthia Dewick	Kate Sayer
Ellen Dolmetsch	Marvin Sayer
Jack Dolmetsch	Annie Schmittinger
Phil Fisher	Bernie Schwab
David Gerbec	Danny Schweers
Willard Glenn	Ray Siegfried
Rodney Jester	Sally Sharp
Steven Harcourt	Bryon Short (NV)
Barbara Henry	Beth Stevenson
Elaine Hickey	Sadie Sommerville
Carol Ireland (NV)	Bill Theis
Maria Kallitsopoulos (NV)	Katherine A. Threefoot
June Kleban	Steven Threefoot
Lynda Kolski	Elizabeth Varley
Barbara Macklem	Mary Vernon
Mary Marconi	Cecilia Vore
Connee McKinney	Larry Walker
David Michelson	Laura Wallace
Mary Murphy	Tom Wheeler

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Town Chairman Steven Threefoot called the Meeting to Order at 7:37 p.m. at the Buzz Ware Village Center. He invited Warren Rosenkranz of the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee to welcome the attendees.

2.0 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TOWN OFFICIALS

Cecilia Vore asked Registration Committee Members to pass out the Ballots. She said Safety Committee nominee Heidi Hoegger's name should be removed, and Elizabeth Varley will replace her as a candidate. A third member of the Safety Committee will be elected at the June Town Meeting. Cecilia said that the votes will be counted Wednesday night, March 25, 2009 at the Buzz Ware Village Center. She invited all interested Residents to come to watch.

3.0 NEW RESIDENTS

New residents Jonathan and Elaine Clayey were introduced. They moved into the house most recently owned by Rachel and Rick Grier-Reynolds. Maria Kallitsopoulos introduced herself, and said she had moved into one of John Grimaldi rental houses on Lovers Lane. Steven welcomed them all and hoped to see them at future Town Meetings.

3.1 RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTED

Jean Rosin and her husband Morris lived on Miller Road for decades, and both were particularly active in the Arden Club. Jean loved to dance and was a regular at the Folk Guild. After her husband died, Jean lived the remaining 30 years of her life in Florida.

Chris Merkl was an avid bicyclist, who lived on Harvey Road. He displayed a bicycle wheel under his mailbox.

3.2 COMMUNICATIONS

Steven received a long letter from the US Department of Interior explaining the reasons for the denial of Arden's application to become a Historic Landmark District. There were several very technical statements as to why Arden did not fit into the requirements for that particular designation. For example, to qualify an area needs to have 50 % of its area in static architecture. The physical buildings and structures were the main thing to be considered. They would not just consider a community as a district.

Steven received a letter from New Castle County Executive Chris Coons saying that he would not immediately suspend Instant Ticketing in Arden. He suggested that the Town work through the NCC Land Use Department to accomplish this.

Larry Walker read a letter from United Water Delaware announcing that they would soon start their scheduled flushing of fire hydrants and water mains as a part of its regular maintenance program. The areas where the mains

will be flushed have been scheduled, and this might result in temporarily reduced water pressure, or slightly muddy or slightly discolor water. The water will be safe to drink and use, but they suggested that clothes not be laundered, as the fabric might be stained.

Cecilia Vore said that if someone washed clothes and the rust colored water stained them, they should call United Water Delaware for information on how to remove the stains. She said they would provide a packet of cleaner that should remove the discoloration. She recommended calling United Water Delaware, or consulting their website.

Brooke Bovard asked if there was some way someone could send out a web alert when someone learned there would be water main flushing in the area. Steven said that he had a list of e-mail addresses for many Arden Residents, and he had used that in the past to send out timely information. He said that he could do this for the water main flushing. He said that anyone who wanted to be on that distribution list should contact him on the Town's website. Also, if someone wanted to be removed from the list, they should notify the Town Chairman at the same place.

Elizabeth Varley said that United Water would send out weekly lists of developments to be flushed out, so various people would be alert to notices.

3.3 VISITORS

State Representative Bryon Short, who represents the Ardens, spoke about the recent meetings between Gov. Jack Markell and the Legislature about the State's financial situation and approaches for dealing with it. The Governor has sent his Annual Budget to the Legislature, and now they have to complete their part in the process. The Legislature will accept some of the Governor's proposals, modify some, and reject some. It will be a difficult process, since available funds will be severely reduced. Rep. Short said there will be two more meetings of DFAC to examine projected revenues for the next years, and Delaware is experiencing the same financial pain as other states are. There are few states that do not face severe financial problems.

Felise Cressman asked, if the Budget is not passed by the end of the June Session, would the Governor call the Legislature back into session until the Budget was passed? Bryon confirmed that was the case. Felise was concerned that Delaware citizens might not know until the end of the summer how serious the Budget problem could be. Rep. Short acknowledged that might happen.

Steven introduced Teshia Robinson and Matan Silverstein. Teshia said that they both were students at Temple University, and they were taking a "Mosaic" course, where students study a town in great detail. The two of them have chosen Arden, and so far she said she has enjoyed the Town and its people. They were attending to see how a Town Meeting works.

Carol Ireland and Randi Novakoff came to inform the residents about the upcoming Delaware Bike Summit, and to seek support for public interest in bicycling. Carol said she was currently serving as Vice-President of WCBC, as well as treasurer of the newly formed bike advocacy organization Bike Delaware. She was here tonight as a member of the Planning Committee for the Delaware

Bicycle Summit. She said she wanted to talk with the attendees about the Bike Summit, and explain why people may want to attend.

The Bike Summit, will be a one-day conference held at the DelTech campus in Dover on April 24. We are bringing in experts from around the country to discuss the ways we can all make bicycles fit into our transportation plans, and make our cities, businesses and our state more bicycle friendly. Done correctly, this will also make our communities more friendly for pedestrians and people using public transportation as well. Every year, we see more bicycles on the road, especially when gas prices climb like they did last year. In addition, when we see gas prices reach higher and higher in the coming decades, we need to be ready to handle an enormous jump in bicycle usage. Bicycling is a great activity for families with children, too, to get children physically active and enjoying the outdoors. If there is to be a real change to our approach to alternative transportation, it has to be more than just planning by DelDOT and our legislators.

Arden has some enjoyable bicycling through its quiet side streets. But for bicycling to really "catch on", cyclists need to be able to get from one place to another safely, without having to put their bikes in a car and drive to a suitable road.

The Delaware Bike Summit will be held on April 24, 2009 at the Del. Tech. Campus in Dover, and it will be a one-day conference. Various presenters will lead discussions on how to get bicycles to better fit into our transportation system, and to make our roads more bike friendly. Carol felt that there is a need to include bicyclists, pedestrians, the handicapped, and walkers in planning for road rebuilds and building a new road. Effective planning takes community involvement, as communities know what is best needed. Attendees at this Bike Summit will learn how other communities have successfully done this. Making provisions for pedestrians and bicycles does not need to be very expensive if this is included in the planning process from the beginning. Various elected officials will attend this free event. People will have an opportunity to hear experts who have had success in making bicycling a safer and more widespread activity. Carol said she believed that some residents would get a lot of benefit from attending the summit. She asked that people register online ahead of time (www.bike.deldot.gov) so organizers will know how many lunches they need to order. The Summit is completely free. The costs for the entire summit will be paid for by corporate sponsors. So please come to Dover for the day.

4.0 TRUSTEES REPORT

Finances: We have copies of the fourth quarterly report available tonight. The land rent bills were sent out along with an second sheet itemizing the bill and are due in advance of March 25, 2009. We met with the Arden Treasurer and Town Assembly Chair to ensure a smooth transition to the town administration of town finances starting this fiscal year, 2009–10. On April 1, we will issue a check for \$75,000 (approximately half of the town's portion of the budget) into the new account set up by the Village of Arden. We anticipate that the other half will be deposited around July 1, 2009, once the budget balance remaining is determined. The Municipal Street Aid Account will be closed on April 1, and a check issued to the

Village of Arden account for that balance (around \$30,000). All documents from the Trustees and Brandywine Accounting are due to Corcoran for the annual audit on April 13. The audit draft should be ready for our review and the Reserve total calculated by May 22, and the final document completed by June 1.

Lease Transfers: There have been two lease transfers since the January Town Meeting. Both involved name changes.

Town/Trustee Office: The Trustees will be changing their mailing address to the Buzz Ware Village Center address soon. That address will be Trustees of Arden, 2119 The Highway, Arden, DE 19810. The phone number will remain the same for now (302) 475-7980. We will be installing a locking mailbox across the street from the BWVC and, sometime in the future, a drop off box at the BWVC for couriers and within-Arden correspondence. We will put a notice in the Arden Page and in our a future town meeting report when the drop off box is officially installed at the BWVC.

Leasehold Administration: We are aware of the new business in town. That leasehold is zoned RC-10 and grandfathered commercial for the portions of the building that have been used commercially and continuously since 1954. Because this is the only leasehold in Arden that is grandfathered commercial, we will have our lawyer prepare the documents when this lease transfers.

Trustee Outreach: Please contact Carl, Mike, or me if you have a suggestion for a topic that is a Trustee matter that you would like to discuss in a public meeting. We do appreciate your input, so please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,
Connee McKinney, Arden Trustee

The Quarterly Financial Report was presented.

June Kleban asked about the \$30,000 transfer of money for streets to the Town. Connee explained that the funds were from the Municipal Street Aid Fund, and the money was simply being transferred to the Town, which would expend the money in the future. Connee said that nothing was being done away with.

The Report of the Trustees was Accepted.

NOTE: The Quarterly Financial Report is included at the end of the Minutes

5.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently and until the end of this Fiscal Year, the Trustees are keeping track of the revenues and expenses for the Village and Trust. At the beginning of the new fiscal year, the Trustees will be handling the expenses and revenues associated with the Trust, and the Treasurer will be handling the revenues and expenses associated with the Village. I have been working with the Trustees and Brandywine Accountants during the last two months to work out the final details to this transition.

The Estate of Johanne Schroeder gave the Town of Arden a total of \$370,000 to date, and the funds have been invested in six-month CD's at TD Bank and a savings account at Wilmington Trust. The remainder of her estate is expected to be distributed to the Village by the end of April. Final details are being worked out with her Executor. Once her estate is fully distributed, Steven Threefoot and I will meet with Ron Meick to work out the implementation of the investment strategy he developed for the Village.

The Village opened a checking account at TD Bank, and all transactions on the account require two signatures. The four officers of the Village are authorized signers. The account has five hundred and one dollars in it. It is not anticipated the account will be used until the new Fiscal Year.

Another checking account will be opened at TD bank in order to accept the Municipal Street Aid (MSA) grant funds. The funds need to be kept separate from the general operating funds. All of these bank accounts are very safe, and the investments are very conservative.

I am working with the BWVC on constructing an office for the Town. We are requesting construction bids, and we plan to select a contractor by the end of April.

Steven Threefoot and I have been working with Brandywine Accounting to ensure the financial reports they generate for the Village will be timely, accurate, and meet the needs of the Village and its committees. To ensure this happens we will be developing an accounting procedure and policy manual with input from all stakeholders. These policies and procedures will include checks and balances in the accounting system. For example all bank statements will be opened and initialed by a member of either the audit or budget committee. This type of procedure creates a higher level of transparency for the Village.

Brandywine Accounting (our bookkeeping firm) will be keeping two sets of books: one for the Trustees and the other for the Village and Buzz Ware (the Buzz Ware's books will be combined with the Village). Income and expenses will be split per the approved FY10 Budget and will start effective March 25, 2009.

The same voucher process will continue, except "new" Village vouchers will be used for both the Buzz and Village. The print color will be green in color. The Trustees will continue to use their own vouchers. The new Village vouchers will be ready by mid April, and in the meantime, please continue to use the current vouchers and process. Once the office is built, a mailbox for vouchers will be set up, and all vouchers should be placed in the box. The bookkeeping firm will come to our office biweekly to process vouchers and generate checks.

The Officers are going to be scheduling meetings every other week in order to ensure timely signing of Village checks.

Beside the MSA funds being transferred over to the Village at the beginning of the new fiscal year, the fund balances in the Buzz Ware bank account, Memorial Garden, Arden G-3 Green, Hamburger lecture series and grants will be transferred to the Villages TD bank account. I will be meeting with the Audit Committee to ensure the accounting for the transfer will be easily understood, and they will be able to independently validate the new set of books for the Village.

A new chart of accounts has been developed for the Village Accounts. It uses a numbering system, along with the Committee name. The new chart is expected to be easier to use, and should reduce the number of transactional errors that now occur. The vouchers will be redesigned to accommodate the new chart. The new vouchers should be ready by Mid-April. The Village will be using Quickbooks accounting software to record its financial transactions. The Village will also be using Quickbooks to handle its payroll needs.

The Town Secretary and Buzz Ware maintenance staff will be paid by the Village at the beginning of the new Fiscal Year. The Village will be remitting its payroll taxes electronically, as required by law, via the EFTPS system.

David then presented the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity for the Town's funds.

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Position
March 23, 2009

TD Bank CD's	\$250,000
TD Bank Checking	\$ 501
Wilmington Trust	<u>\$119,500</u>
Total Net Assets	\$370,001

Village of Arden
Statement of Activity
March 23, 2009

Bequest	\$370,000
Donation	<u>\$ 1</u>
Total Revenue	\$370,001

The Report of the Treasurer was Accepted.

6.0 ASSESSORS

Denis O'Regan reported that the dates for the Assessors Committee Meetings have been posted on the Town Bulletin Boards, including the one in front of the BWVC. They held a Committee Meeting last week.

7.0 ARCHIVES

The Fifth Anniversary Celebration is scheduled to be held Sunday, October 25, 2009. An exhibition will feature items the Arden Craft Shop Museum has acquired during their first five years. The Archives Committee invites everyone to continue to support the ACSM by visiting, working there, or making a contribution.

Submitted by,
Barbara Macklem

8.0 AUDIT

On March 20, 2009 an audit was performed at Brandywine Accounting on the financial books for the previous quarter. All accounts are in order.

Cookie Ohlson
Chair, Audit Committee

The Report was Accepted

9.0 BUDGET

Jeff Politis presented the Three-Year Budget Projection for the period 2110-2113. This is for information and use by the Assessors. Jeff said that he does not expect to see any major tax increases for the next two years, but then they expect that there will be a school levy increase. An estimated \$40,000 increase is projected for that time.

The Report of the Budget Committee was Accepted.

NOTE: The 3-Year Budget Projection can be found at the end of the Minutes

10.0 BWVC

There was No Report.

11.0 CIVIC

The Committee made no Report

Steven reported that a committee has been established to deal with the problem of parking on the Sherwood Green, and to establish sufficient parking for the two Community Centers. There are representatives from Community Planning, Civic, BWVC, and the Arden Club. Participation by other Village residents will be welcomed.

12.0 COMMUNITY PLANNING

Ruth Bean spoke about the upcoming Annual Memorial Garden Cleanup on May 2, 2009, and it will be held from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. She especially encouraged people who have family buried in the Memorial Garden to come help. There will be a variety of tasks that must be performed, so anyone can find a suitable job that they can do. There will be a particular need for “wheelbarrow pushers” and “shovelers” as two of the volunteers who did that in the past are no longer available. You are requested to bring some hand tools, however, there will be some tools available for those who need them. There will be refreshments with plenty to drink. The Rain Date is Sunday, May 3, 2009.

Ruth asked those who had put down Christmas wreaths and other decorations on graves to remove them before Easter, so that the Memorial Garden will have a better look for expected visitors.

Danny Schweers spoke about suggested safety improvements to the Orleans-Harvey Road intersection. He and a group of neighbors had already spoken to the Safety and Community Planning Committees about their proposals.

Danny made the following Motion:

MOVED, the following letter be e-mailed to Tom Meyer, Manager, Traffic Studies, DELDOT Transportation Management Center:

Tom,

The Village of Arden would like safety improvements at the intersection of Harvey and Orleans Roads to reduce the number of vehicles going off the road, especially late at night. This intersection is at the crux of a deceptive curve on Harvey Road. Vehicles on Harvey Road not making the curve are a long-standing problem, but in the fall of 2008 there were something like eight accidents in eight weeks, prompting this request.

The safety improvements we contemplate are:

- 1) Change existing traffic signal to flash red in all directions at night, perhaps 12:00 to 5:00 a.m. Most accidents at this intersection are late at night. Currently, traffic light stays a constant green for traffic on Harvey Road except when vehicles on Orleans Road trip the light.
- 2) Add 50-foot guardrail along east side of Harvey Road north of light. This improvement is supported by the leaseholder and would keep wayward vehicles away from trees and an existing telephone pole. We would like this to be a wooden guardrail similar to those in Ardentown and Ardencroft along Harvey and Veale Roads respectively.
- 3) Add chevrons at both ends of the curve. Chevrons exist only at middle now. Drivers approaching curve currently cannot see full extent of the curve.
- 4) Improve sight lines so Harvey Road traffic can more easily see the traffic light. The combination of the curve, a dip in Harvey Road south of the intersection, and surrounding trees can obscure the traffic light.

We look forward to hearing which, if any, of these recommendations might be implemented, and how and when.

Sincerely,

Steven Threefoot, Chair
Town Assembly of the Village of Arden

Danny Schweers,
Community Planning Committee

The Motion was Seconded.

Brooke Bovard asked about the specificity of the location, namely, why were no other areas included in the proposal. She said that she has seen accidents in front of her house on Harvey Road. Danny said that he had heard of the other situation, but it was a group of residents around the Orleans-Harvey Roads intersection who took the initiative to meet with committees, and draft a Motion.

Cecilia was concerned that if there were another point for people to stop, adding a stop would not be energy efficient. She wanted that to be investigated along with the other points. Danny replied that his group would only make suggestions, and the specialists at DELDOT would make the final plans. DELDOT said that they would accept the suggestions.

Steven Threefoot then re-read the Motion, since there were no changes suggested from the floor.

Lynda Kolski agreed that the intersection was dangerous, and was not sure if this was the most appropriate way of improving safety. As history, she said that the Village had worked for eight years on Traffic Calming, and though some improvements were made, there were no substantial changes in the end. She wanted the other Ardens to be included in the meetings, and she was concerned that DELDOT might want to use this as an excuse to either widen Harvey Road, or remove trees, which should not be the goal of this project. She did not want DELDOT to be given any opportunity to come into Arden to make some of the changes they had long wanted to do.

Mike Curtis felt that the flashing red light might be distracting, and that perhaps the Harvey Road light should be red and the Orleans Road should be green.

Drumlin Brooke spoke about the need to enlarge the scope of the study. He wanted other intersections along Harvey Road to be considered, and a broader remedy to be suggested.

Steven Harcourt was supportive of Lynda Kolski's assertions. He had learned that moves made in the name of safety only allow drivers to go faster, which creates a different type of problem.

Denis O'Regan spoke in favor of the Motion. He felt there was merit in the proposal, and that DELDOT would not do anything elsewhere along Harvey Road. He had received various phone calls over the past months, and the intersection is dangerous. Should the State come up with some unusual change to this plan, Arden could reject those changes.

Ellen Dolmetsch spoke in favor of the Motion. She has lived most of her life in the house at that intersection and has seen many accidents end up in her front yard. She has seen individuals badly injured and lying on her front lawn. She felt that youth, alcohol, and speed were invariably the causes. Ellen strongly wanted some changes made to improve safety there.

The Secretary read the Motion, and a vote was taken. The Registration Committee counted the votes, and the result was 36 YES and 15 NO. There were two Abstentions. The Motion was passed.

Lynda Kolski suggested that in the letter to DELDOT, Arden request DELDOT to get back to the Town before they make any final plans.

Ray Siegfried reported on the ADU Process. He said that on Friday (March 20, 2009) the Department of Land Use was in the process of issuing letters to the Trustees of the three Villages, and each village will get a Master List for their town. In addition, each leaseholder will get an individual letter that confirms the existence of a domicile(s) with Legal Non-Conforming Status. This should bring the two-year process to an end. (Applause)

Ray said that last week an Open Meeting/Hearing was held about “Instant Ticketing” at the BWVC, and 25 people attended. The Committee will continue working on the issue.

The Report of the Community Planning Committee was Accepted.

13.0 FOREST COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Varley gave the report of the Forest Committee:

The Woods Cleanup will be on April 18, 2009 starting at 9:00 am. Elizabeth Varley will coordinate it. There will be an article in the *Arden Page* giving the details.

Maryanne Cinaglia has suggested that maybe some of the volunteers can help clean up the Rain Garden on the Arden Green.

The path in the new five acre area of Sherwood Forest is being developed.

Thanks to everyone who clears tree limbs and other debris from the paths.

Please do not clear the leaves or mulch, since they help with the mud.

Please do not dump leaves and other yard waste into the woods.

Kudzu along St. Martin’s Lane is dormant, but will continue to be controlled manually by Committee Members, or former members.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Marconi

14.0 PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Since the last Town Meeting in January, the required Playground Equipment Inspection was held. All of the equipment was adult tested for safety, and all equipment was in safe condition. This month, a total of 60 cu. yds. of “Wood Carpet” was delivered and installed under playground equipment. Wood Carpet is a special type of wood mulch composed of chipped hardwoods, and it is made to ASTM Specifications so that it can be installed under playground equipment. Overall, it has proved to be a superior product for under our equipment.

Among the projects to be considered for next year is removal of all the old playground mulch under one piece of equipment. Over a period of years, the wood mulch will decompose, and lose it resiliency. To restore the ground covering, all of the old mulch will be removed, and the area of the “play zone” lowered to a depth of one foot. New tyvar landscape fabric will be installed, and then new wood carpet

will be installed. This should be a part of the rejuvenation of any playground equipment safety maintenance. The first proposed piece of equipment to be rejuvenated is the swing set at the Miller Road end of the Village Green.

Submitted by,
Mary Vernon and Larry Walker
Co-Chairs, Playground Committee

The Report of the Playground Committee was Accepted

15.0 REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

A “Thank You” to everyone who agreed to run for committees in this election. Many committees have jobs throughout the year that volunteers can assist with. So if you are interested in helping out in general, or getting involved with a particular committee, contact the committee chair. The Registration Committee will count ballots for tonight’s election of Committees and Officers on Wednesday evening, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 4 of the Buzz Ware Village Center. The public is invited to attend, and to help with the count.

Results will be posted by Friday on the Town Bulletin Boards and the website: <http://arden.delaware.gov>

A list of all standing committee members is maintained on the Arden Government website, as well as “Arden: How It Works,” a brief guide to Arden Government.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Vore, Chair

The Registration Committee Report was Accepted.

16.0 SAFETY No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Toby Ridings gave the following update of the activities of the Community Garden Interest Group:

Work in the garden has begun.

Peter Lindtner, recently retired horticulturist for Hagley Museum, visited the garden site and spoke with some of the gardeners. Excited by the project, Peter returned with a presentation, including a slide show on organic gardening. The event was held at the BWVC on March 12 and was open to the community.

Currently 13 families have submitted applications, along with the fee for water and soil preparations. Some individuals are sharing plots.

The Community Garden Assoc. made the decision to leave the jungle gym in the Tot Lot for this pilot year.

During an impromptu work session, a sod remover was rented, and sod was cut, rolled, and stacked. The sod is available at the Tot Lot for residents to pick up.

Pete Willis, a resident of Arden, tilled the plots today. A truckload of organic mushroom soil was delivered and spread to enhance the soil. Mushroom soil will be available to the community soon for which the Community Garden Assoc. will accept voluntary donations. Any donations will be directed to the water and rain barrel fund. We are continuing to research the purchase and use of rain barrels. Just yesterday we were informed that the G3 group has purchased 6 rain barrels for the BWVC which will be for the benefit of the gardeners. In addition, Rob & Dela Bryan have donated a rain barrel.

Gardeners are anticipating the rapidly approaching spring planting. We are grateful to the community of Arden for their support of this project.

Submitted by,
Toby Ridings, CGA

Larry Walker said that there are about ten empty plastic barrels which belong to the Civic Committee and stored in the Spring House. These might be available for rain barrels for the CGIG. A spigot would have to be installed in the bottom, but that would be relatively inexpensive compared to purchasing a rain barrel. He suggested that they talk to the Civic Committee about those long unused barrels.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth Bean asked the Village whether any group would be willing to host a focus group on "Community Life for over 50's." She had attended a meeting at the Jewish Family Service and she spoke with them about the way the Arden Community deals with its older residents. Everyone was impressed with the resources available in the Ardens. Marcie Resnick, a former Ardentown resident, is working at JFS to assess the quality of life for seniors in Northern Wilmington, including Claymont and the Ardens. She has much information to offer about available resources, and can explain how other communities deal with this problem. Also, she would be interested to learn from Ardenites. The Community Planning Committee said that they would contact Ms. Resnick, and follow up on her request to hold a meeting in Arden.

Danny Schweers spoke about the "Instant Ticketing" Meeting held by the Community Planning Committee last week. For individuals interested in this issue, he has put some links to related websites. He feels the information could be helpful.

Steven said that he has an e-mail address list that he uses to notify people in Arden if there is some information that should be disseminated widely within a short time. He reminded people that if they want to be included in the list, they should contact him on the Town's website. Also, if anyone wants to be removed from the address list, they should contact him the same way.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Steven announced that Cassie Rothrock was having an emergency appendectomy tonight, and her mother Sue Rothrock is on her way to Penn State University to be with her daughter. That was why Sue could not attend tonight's Meeting. On behalf of the Town, he wished Cassie a speedy recovery.

There was a Motion for Adjournment, which was Seconded and Approved unanimously. The Meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Larry Walker
Secretary to the Town

**THREE-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTION PREPARED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE
PRESENTED MARCH 23, 2009**

		2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
	NOTES	ACTUAL	APPROPRIATED	APPROPRIATED	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
NON-BUDGET EXPENSES							
Property Taxes							
County (Property + Crossing Guard)	1	70,040	74,481	74,900	83,214	92,451	102,713
School (Brandywine + Vo-Tech)	1	265,785	274,146	290,288	299,616	308,912	343,332
Sub-Total: Property Taxes		335,825	348,627	365,188	382,830	401,363	446,045
Trustees Administration							
Audit		5,800	5,500	6,000	6,500	6,700	7,000
Insurance		10,735	11,000	11,500	12,000	12,500	13,000
Professional-Legal		903	13,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Professional-Engineering/Misc.		6,123	9,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Professional Bookkeeping		0	4,800	10,900	3,000	3,200	3,400
Office Rent		2,436	2,520	2,600	2,400	2,400	2,600
Payroll Taxes		1,067	767	1,100	800	850	900
Salaries		7,883	7,308	7,500	5,000	5,200	5,400
Sub-Total: Trustees Administration		34,947	53,895	47,600	37,700	38,850	40,300
Long Term Debt(Sherwood Forest)		16,176	16,176	16,176	16,176	16,176	16,176
Trash & Special Pickup	3	46,125	48,000	48,000	50,000	52,500	55,000
Grants-State of Delaware							
Grant to Civic Committee	4	12,555	0	0	0	0	0
Municipal Street Aid	4	15,356	14,000	13,264	14,000	14,000	14,000
Trail Renewal Grant	4	950	950	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total: State Grants		28,861	14,950	13,264	14,000	14,000	14,000
SUB-TOTAL: NON-BUDGET EXPENSES		461,934	481,648	490,228	500,706	522,889	571,521

	NOTES	2007-2008 ACTUAL	2008-2009 APPRO- PRIATED	2009-2010 APPRO- PRIATED	2010-2011 FORECAST	2011-2012 FORE- CAST	2012-2013 FORE- CAST
BUDGET EXPENSES							
Advisory	2	178	300	300	300	300	300
Archives		809	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
Assessors	2	0	75	50	50	50	50
Buzz Ware Village Center							
Program/Administration		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Maintenance		2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Renovations		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000
Roof Renovations		0	0	0			
Sub-Total:BWVC		6,500	6,500	7,000	7,000	7,000	8,000
Civic Committee							
Snow Plowing		0	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Roads & Commons		30,899	35,000	39,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Sub-Total:		30,899	38,000	42,000	43,000	43,000	43,000
Civic Committee							
Community Planning	2	0	1,600	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Forests		1,918	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Playground		2,400	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Registration		482	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Safety Committee:							
Safety-General		45	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Town Watch		2,400	2,400	0	0	0	0
Coordinator Fees							
Harvey Road Speed Enforcement		0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sub-Total		2,445	4,400	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Safety Committee							
Town Expenses:							
Secretary		5,520	5,004	5,252	5,252	5,383	5,518
Professional Bookkeeping		512	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Office rental		0	0	0	2,400	2,500	2,600
Town Payroll Taxes		742	525	800	820	841	862
Town Administrative Expenses		6,966	3,750	4,000	4,120	4,244	4,371
Gild Hall Rental		1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Office construction		0	0	8,000	0	0	0
Sub-Total:		15,040	14,579	19,352	17,892	18,268	18,651
Town Expenses							

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
	ACTUAL	APPROPRI- ATED	APPRO- PRIATED	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
Donations:						
ACRA	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,575	1,650
Arden Page	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Arden Library	600	650	700	700	700	750
Fire Companies	1,450	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sub-Total: Donations	5,050	5,250	5,300	5,300	5,375	5,500
Contingencies	0	3,000	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
SUB-TOTAL: BUDGET EXPENSES	65,721	84,144	95,442	96,982	97,433	98,941
TOTAL EXPENSES	527,655	565,792	585,670	597,688	620,322	670,462

Notes to March 2009 3YR Projections:

Note 1- School & County Taxes

Brandywine School District

The June 4, 2007 referendum by Brandywine School District carried the promise that they would not have another referendum for three years, which takes us through their year ending 6/30/10. In addition to this promise, BSD is in the process of closing some schools and because of the potential cost savings do not envision any need for referenda even through YE 6/30/12. Through conversation with Carl Schrass of BSD, as of February 09, there are no plans for referenda. However, surely by YE 2013, one will occur. That increase in the basic component is estimated to be 20%.

BSD tax components: (all figures are per hundred dollars assessed valuation)

Current Brandywine expense	Increases per referendum to .784 in 2010
Temporary rate for athletic fields	Decreases per referendum to 0 in 2012
Safety/security/energy/maintenance	Holds at .0330 through 2012
Current County expenses	Fixed by statute at .4680
Debt Service tax	Estimated to rise at 5 % per year
Tuition tax	Estimated to rise at .02 per year
Minor Capital improvement tax	Estimated to rise at .004 per year
Technology tax	by statute at .0145

Vo-Tech Taxes -The Vo-Tech rate is not subject to a referendum. Fortunately, this rate is not a huge component in our taxes. The rate remained stable for about three years, and then jumped forty percent for YE 2008. We estimate a 10% per annum rise in this rate.

County Taxes & Crossing Guard -Steve Tanzer has pressed the County for information on future tax increases without success except to say that there will be increases. Therefore we are estimating a 10% average yearly increase for the three years ending 2011, 2012 & 2013. For YE 2010, last years referendum numbers included a 5% raise from the previous year.

Total Assessed Arden Property Value -For projections, we use the assumption that the total assessed value of Arden will rise 1% each year. The actual rise from YE 2007 to YE 2008 was .487 %

Bottom Line on County & School Taxes: Using all factors as described above, we estimate the total rise in School & County taxes to be 4.6% to 11.2% per year as shown on the spreadsheet for Years Ending 2011, 2012, & 2013

Note 2 – Since there was no committee response, projection amounts were set by the Budget Committee

Note 3 – Trash collection has moved to Town non-budget expense from the Civic Committee

Note 4 - Municipal Street Aid has been consistently received in the past, therefore is projected here. Grant to the Civic Committee and the Trails Renewal Grant are less likely to be counted on and are not included.

Note 5 – Bookkeeping expense for the Town was included in the Trustees expenses for the YE 2010 referendum. It is now included with the Town expenses for subsequent years.

