The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 23, 1970 at 8 P.M. with Chairman, William Press presiding.

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

The Trustee financial report for the year 1969-1970 was read and approved. A copy is on file.

The Trustees suggested that if we go to the Legislature to amend the charter to reduce or eliminate the quorum, the voting age be reduced to 19 years of age.

The lease between the Mt Pleasant School District and the Trustees is being prepared. The area from the basket ball court to the Phillips property will be retained but the school will be able to use it. The Village of Arden will keep the grass cut and a lease will be granted for 5 years at $1 per year with the understanding that the property will be used for educational purposes.

Mr Press stated that he would like to entertain a motion that we suspend the rules of Order and conduct the election of the standing committees at this time. A motion was made and passed and the Registration Committee conducted the election for the committees.

Assessors and Budget no report.

Civic Committee report by Wordson Vanderen - Roads and Common are in terrible shape because of the hard winter we have had. Clean up work will be started as soon as weather permits. The Civic Committee is planning a spring and fall general rubbish collection of materials not collected by hired rubbish collectors.

The backstop on the green will be erected by the time it is warm enough to play baseball

The Civic Committee would like to know how they can make residents clean up properties that are maintained in such disorder that they are objectionable to neighbors. They asked the Trustees if they have any legal way to force people to get rid of old cars, trash, dead trees etc. It was suggested that the Civic Committee write an ordinance that would take care of this problem of condition of residents properties.

The Committee had received suggestion from Mrs Jerry Millstein for greater use of the Green by opening other areas with benches etc. These ideas will be presented under new business.

The report of the committee on motion was accepted

The Community Planning committee reported was presented by Frank Okulowicz. The Committee 1 - Supervised pruning of all shrubbery in Cemetery. 2 - Surveyed and listed all town trees that need pruning. 3 - Plan to plant a cherry tree as soon as weather permits. 4 - Suggest planting of azaleas & rhododendrons. 5 - Planning Board of New Castle County released a development plan for Brandywine Hundred which calls for increase of population in this area. 6 Request that all residents clean out hedges sides of road etc of all cans, papers etc because it is impossible for town to keep the areas

in good condition.
Registration Committee reported 409 votes as of March 23, 1970.

The Safety Committee is engaged in negotiating a contract with the New Castle County Police involving police protection for Arden and Belbefonte. Contract details are being cleared ~~up~~ with the Trustees and the Villages' insurance carrier. Acceptance of the report will constitute the Town Assembly's approval in principle of the arrangement.
The Safety Committee would hear all complaints and supervise the police.
A motion was made and accepted that the Safety Committee's report be accepted.

~~Bra~~ Council of Civic Organization of Brandywine Hundred report by Frank Abutowicz is acting with New Castle County, the State of Delaware to file suit to stop Penn Central from filling the Delaware River shoreline between Edge Moor and Claymont. The Council is also party to a suit to set aside air space clearance for a proposed airport in Concord Township, Pa.

The Arden Archives Committee have arranged with the Delaware Historical Society to store valuable old records, pictures, Town Crier, Arden Leaves, Arden Club Calendar etc. The Society will index the material and store it in fire proof boxes. The material will still be accessible when needed.

Old Business - Mary Morley Secretary reported information received from Clarice Hechert concerning method of amending the act to

Reincorporate Arden.

1 - In order to amend group as 35 residents resolution must be sent to Town Assembly.

2 - When the Town Assembly acts affirmatively, the resolution should be sent to one of our representatives to be written into proper style by one of the lawyers of the Legislature.

3 - It will then be presented as an amending bill to the State Legislature.

Mrs Hechert pointed out that any resolution to eleminate the quorum or to reduce it to a level not representative of a fair percentage of qualified voting residents would be questioned and probably not pass.

The Arden Neighbors was formed in 1964 as an emergency local aid Committee. It was decided to continue the committee. In the past couple of years the committee has been relatively inactive and does not act on a formal basis. At present $8650 is banked in the name of the committee. The two remaining committee members, Joan Colgan and Jim Kleban propose that the money be transferred to the treasurer of the Town to be held in ~~event~~ event of a further emergency. If necessary the committee could be reactivated.

Motion made and passed to accept the suggestion of the committee and to thank them for the service they have rendered over the years.

The question of the quorum was discussed. Some residents felt that if we eliminated the quorum more people would come to Town Assembly to prevent a few people setting up policies. It is recognized that town meeting form of ~~government~~ government is not an efficient form but it does mean involvement. If those present would try to get others to come to meetings we would have enough present to conduct town business.

A motion to change the quorum from 35 residents to 25 for Town Assembly meeting was defeated.

A motion was made and passed that the Advisory Committee study the matter of changing the quorum.

The Advisory Committee has also been asked to study the possibility of reducing the age requirement for voting residents to 18 or 19 years of age.

Mr Finkelstein feels that a registered voter should be one who actually indicates by registering that he desires to be a voting resident.

The Advisory Committee is to study means of implementing new methods of registration of residents.

Mrs Jerry Mullstein proposed setting up several sections of the Green as recreation or just resting area. Her proposals are:

1. Fix the swings again but set them low enough for young children.
2. Put benches along Main Lane
3. Put benches or logs at the lower green near the climbing tree.
4. Make the climbing tree safer by putting some kind of guard rail at top of tree.

It was suggested that the Civic Committee

enlarge the facilities on the green as outlined.

The Registration Committee reported a tie vote in the Community Planning Committee and another vote had to be taken to break the tie.

Registration Committee reported the following results of the elections:

Auditing Committee: Murray Lasky, George Horstein, Carl Van Arsdale.

Budget Committee: William Morley, Murray Lasky.

Civic Committee: Woodrow Vanderen, Michael Curtis.

Community Planning: Aaron Hartinger, Edith Ware

Registration Committee: Doris Davis, Beatrice Jaffe, Mary Perrone.

Safety Committee: T. Edward Southwell, Jack Board.

Adversary Committee Chairman: Aaron Hartinger

Chairman of Town Assembly: William Press

Secretary of Town Assembly: Mary Morley

Treasurer of Town Assembly: Carl Gerstine.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Morley
Secretary