September 28, 2015

Town Meeting Minutes

Next Town Assembly for the Village of Arden
Monday, January 25, 2016
7:30 p.m. - Gild Hall
2119 The Highway
Arden, Delaware

Postcard reminders and agenda will be mailed prior to next Town Assembly meeting

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

Monday, September 28, 2015
Gild Hall -Arden, DE

MOTIONS

11.0 Labyrinth page
Motion
We move to install/build a labyrinth on the northwest corner of the Arden Green, near the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, as shown in the exhibits presented at the June Meeting.
Amend Motion: The approval is dependent on Labyrinth meeting ADA compliance. **Amended motion was approved**.
Motion for secret ballot. **Defeated**.
Motion Approved

12.3 Agenda
Motion to suspend rules. (Flip flop between Budget and BWVC for clarity) **Motion Approved**

12.4 BWVC page
Committee Election: No other nominees from the floor. Debbi Sheiker voted to serve out the term vacated by John (Martin) which ends March of 2017. **Motion Approved**

12.4 BWVC Motion to Request Capital from the Village Fund
Due to the need to do extensive maintenance work and repairs required to the exterior of the Buzz Ware Village Center, and the estimated costs for this work exceeds the Buzz Ware renovation fund, It is moved that in accordance with the capital reserve policy of the Village of Arden, the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee requests approval from the town assembly to spend funds from the Village's capital reserve to cover 75% of the cost, or $25,000, whichever is less, to perform the necessary renovation work on the exterior of the Buzz Ware, the walk-way from the street, and apron in the front of the building. The additional funds will be provided from the Buzz Ware Renovation account, grants, and gifts. **Motion Approved**

12.7 Community Planning Committee page
FEMA Flood Insurance;
At our January meeting Town Assembly approved an amendment to our *Resolution for the National Flood Insurance Program*. At our March meeting I reported that there was no progress from FEMA on our resolution. In July I received notice that the maps had changed, which requires us once again to modify our resolution to include both map panels. A copy of this change is presented before you for consideration and approval. The **motion** for this change is as follows: Community Planning Committee motions that,
Town Assembly accept the additional phase of "and FIRM panel 10003C0086K dated 2/4/2015" as part of section 1. of our Resolution for the National Flood Insurance Program. **Motion Approved.**

12.9 Playground
Chairman reminded that first; the January approved motion was based on the Committee approving an idea. It was not approved on a specific drawing. It was approved to go ahead without having to go back to the town. It was approved "as is" with the Playground Committee given the authority to

design and install the mound. Secondly, the approval of the Pendulum funds had conditions attached to it that nothing can be done with those funds until the town officers had approved a plan similar to what Jeff (Steen) is suggesting

Motion: No earthwork shall commence with regard to the construction of the mound until such time as the village has approved a scaled drawing of the mound proposal, a cost estimate for the mound proposal and the time line for construction of the mound. **Amend Motion:** To include all proper compliances documented. **Amended Motion Denied**. **Motion Defeated**.

Attendees: Sign- In Sheet 91 (line 43. Blank/ no signature, line 63 signature illegible)

Elizabeth	Resko	Betty	O'Regan
Lisa	Mullinax	Denis	O'Regan
Jeffrey	Politis	John	Martin
Lizzie	Broadbent	Sadie	Somerville
Joseph	Daigle NV	Jill	Althouse-Wood
Mike	Moran NV	Keri	del Tufo
Ed	Rohrbach	Lon	Sullivan
Jim	Laurino	John	Cartier (N.C.C.C) NV
Mike	Curtis	Katrina	Streiff
Barbara	Macklem	Roger	Garrison
David	Michelson	Marcia	Scheflen
Mark	Wood	Grace E	Ressler
Mary	Murphy	Bill	Theis
Ray	Seigfried	Charles E.	Robinson
Deborah	Ricard	Ron	Meick
Warren	Rosenkranz	Dorinda	Dove
Dela	Bryan	Maria	Burslem
Kathrine	Threefoot	Alan	Burslem
Steven	Threefoot	Jane P	Claney
Gary E	Quinton	Mary	Vernon
Sharon	Simmons	Larry	Walker
Cookie	Ohlson	Elizabeth	Varley
Marjorie	Roberts	Stephen	Harcourt
Carol	Larson	Brooke	Bovard
Amy	York	David D	Claney
Maren	Wood	Jeffrey	Steen
Joey	Finocchiaro	Ellen	Dolmetsch
Larry	Strange	Denise	Nordheimer
Joe	del Tufo	Joan M.	Morgan
Cynthia	Dewick	Debbie	Sheiker
David	Gerbec	Cecilia	Vore
Hugh	Roberts	Carl	Falco

Bob	Wilson	Tom	Wheeler
Jennifer	Borders	Kevin	Gargan
KiKi (Kathryn)	Evinger, NV	Ron	Ozer
Laura	Wallace	Barbara	Shippy
Ruth	Panella	Frank	Jost NV
Jennifer	Curley NV	Julia	McNeil
Sam	Panella	Pat	Toman NV
Lynda	Kolski	Linda	Toman NV
Sally	Sharp	Toby	Ridings
Dale	Brumbaugh	Linda	Celestian
Albert	Marks	Pam	Politis
Diane	Postell	Randy	Hoopes
Mick	Fitzharris	Alex	del Tufo

1.0 Call to Order:
Chairman, Jeffrey Politis, called meeting to order at 7:36 P.M.

2.0 Minutes:
Clarification of minutes: June's Town Minutes under Good and Welfares - a clarification in parentheses was added. Deborah Ricard has requested it be removed. It reads as follows:

Deborah Ricard requested posting policy on town website regarding reserving Field Theater. She referred to a graduate being turned down (Civic Committee) even though everyone was to be invited. (Civic Committee Policy: Inviting everyone to one's event does not automatically constitute a public event (no rental fee). Therefore, applicant was denied public status. However, applicant was approved for private status at the standard rental fee for reservation of Field Theater).

Chair will ask the Civic Committee to look at the Policy. He is aware there are a number of things that people think we can do for community members. Chair will follow up with Civic.

Clarification: Can't find minutes on town website. The reason is the Town website is transitioning onto a new website. Hard copies are provided at Arden Library. If you request, a hard copy, one can be sent to your home.

New voting residents (age 18): Maren Wood and Alex del Tufo. Chair thanks them for attending Town meeting and participating.

Minutes approved as amended.

3.0 Communications: Jeffrey Politis.
Communications from the Chair.
Since the last town meeting….

The last several months have been quiet, but there are a few notable things that have gone on.

1. The village officers have approved a non-discrimination policy for the Village of Arden. It reads

The Village of Arden does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, residents, and visitors. The Village of Arden is an equal opportunity employer.

You are welcome hither!

A copy of this will be posted on the Village website.

2. Many people have commented that the Village website has become more difficult as we are updating it. Although this process has taken longer than desired, we are working to accelerate this transition so that we avoid any further confusion.

3. The contract with the Village and Rick Rothrock for the approved public artwork project funded by the Hamburger funds has been completed.

4. As many of you are aware, getting the state's budget resolved was a difficult task. At specific risk to the Village during this budget debate was the municipal street aid, which the village uses every year to maintain our roads. I want to thank our legislative leaders for working to maintain the MSA in this years budget. In particular, I spoke with Rep. Bryon Short directly, who gave his support to Arden on this matter.

5. As mentioned in the last meeting, I have updated the email address for the town chair. You can reach me via either ardenchair@theardens.com or ardenchair@arden.delaware.gov. Both emails will go to ardenchair@arden.delaware.gov which will be an email address that can be transferred to future chairs.

6. If you signed up to be on the email announcement distribution and have not seen an email announcement, don't fret, I have not yet sent one. I will be sending a general email soon to confirm both that your email works and that you want to be on the distribution.

7. I have received a complaint about the method in which the announcement and agenda for this town meeting was delivered to residents. Under normal circumstances, the announcement would have gone through the US postal service. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we could not deliver the announcement via the US Postal service. Hence, the announcements were hand delivered to every mailbox in Arden.

Hand delivery has been used in the past and has set an acceptable precedent for delivery of meeting announcements. After speaking with the town attorney, I am satisfied that hand delivery of the announcement and agenda to each mailbox in Arden meets the obligations of informing residents of the meeting. We will return to the desired practice of mailing via US postal service in the future.

Let's have a respectful and deliberative meeting. Thanks

So submitted

Jeffrey Politis
Town Chair, Village of Arden.

Questions
Request to consider adding to the Non- discrimination statement: Sex as a protective class and sexual preferences. Town Chair will take this up with the Officers.

4.0 New Residents: Donna & Mike Moran (2005 Sherwood Rd), expressed their thanks to the community for their kind and warm welcome.

5.0 Recognition of the Departed: Chuck Conner, Debbie Theis, Maria Suzanne Hemphill (lived on Walnut Lane, Veterinary nurse at University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital), Jeralyn Alexander (aka Jerry Moss) was married to Joe Alexander, the artist.

6.0 Visitors:
Councilman John Cartier is undertaking another Legislative Ordinance Initiative for the town and he is working with Community Planning. This ordinance would exempt the Town of Arden from New Castle County's vacant property code and allow Arden to enforce their own. He is hoping to take it to a vote in late October.

He provided Town Chair with a copy of Cases By Council District 7/1/2015 to 9/29/2015 for his review.

He expressed his delight in volunteering for the 108th Arden Fair and was very impressed with all the volunteers.

Kathryn Evinger, Legislative Aid to Bryon Short, introduced herself and she is available to assist with any state issues. Jeff has her email address.

7.0 Advisory: Steven Threefoot
The Advisory Committee met at the Buzz Ware on Tuesday, September 8. We set the agenda for this meeting, and we identified issues of interest to multiple committees and the officers to clarify the roles of the various committees in taking action on the issues.

Board of Assessors The Board of Assessors election is held by mail ballot with the budget referendum. According to the village charter, the election is held using the Hairs election system of proportional representation. The nominations for the 2015-2016 Board of Assessors are (in alphabetical order):

Joe del Tufo
David Gerbec

Denis O'Regan
Pam Politis
Gary Quinton
Liz Resko
Charles Robinson
Warren Rosenkranz
Sue Rothrock
Sally Sharp
Kate Threefoot
Larry Walker
Tom Wheeler
Mark Wood

The floor is open to any additional nominations. If you wish to place a name into nomination, you must do so prior to the end of this meeting.
Submitted
Steven Threefoot, Advisory Chair

Questions
Mike Curtis said he would submit his name to run if a half dozen people showed they support him. Jeff suggests to talk to Steven at the end of the meeting and show your support.

8.0 Treasurer's Report: David Michelson
Reviewed Village of Arden Financial Statements as of September 28, 2015.
Copy of Financial Statements- Attachments section

Three outstanding draws against the Schroeder's funds. They are not reflected in the Financial Statements but are in the minutes. They are as follows: 1) Playground mound for approximately $10,000, 2) Forest Grant – I think it is somewhere around $6,000 to $8,000 ($1,200 spent) and 3) Labyrinth for $4,800 requested, assuming it is approved.
Treasurer's Report accepted

9.0 Trustee's Report: Mike Curtis
The Trustees have several items to report this evening:

Finances: We have copies of the quarterly financial report available tonight. We have paid the New Castle County and School taxes which are due September 30:

County taxes	84,871.36
School taxes	318,679.91
Total County and School taxes paid	**403,551.27**
Rebates to individual leaseholders	**36,425.86**
Total paid	**$439,977.13**

Regarding rebates, the rebates to individual leaseholders are calculated from programs administered by New Castle County (not the Trustees). One program gives a tax exemption, and the other a tax credit. The County program called **Senior School Tax Rebate** is a tax credit for those 65 and over (that is the only criteria) and the other program is called **Senior or Disability Income Exemption** that is based on your adjusted gross income for the previous calendar year. You must apply one time to receive the Property Tax Relief credit and for the Senior or Disability Income Exemption: We encourage you to apply. There is a filing deadline to qualify for the upcoming tax year. Please contact the New Castle County Treasurer's Office (302) 395-5520 for an application and for any questions that you have. The County is most helpful with the forms. The eligible leaseholders for the County programs this year should receive their rebate checks by mid-October. If you do not receive your rebate by then, please contact the Arden Trustees Office (475-7980).

Houes Leasehold-The Trustees have purchased the Houes leasehold from the estate. Demolition will begin once approval from NCCo has been obtained.

Lease Transfers-There was no transfers since the June meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Curtis
Mike Curtis, Arden Trustee

10.0 Board of Assessors: Gary Quinton
No Report
The Board of Assessors provided their report in June. The June Assessors report will be used to calculate land rent since no alternative assessment has been provided.

11.00 Labyrinth Proposal Keri del Tufo, Jill Althouse-Wood

Chair: Labyrinth motion was tabled last town meeting to provide additional thought to address questions that were brought up. Motion is taken off the table.

Labyrinth Proposal September 28, 2015

As we said in our presentation in the last meeting, we want to build a labyrinth on the Arden Green. Many of you were at the meeting last month. For those who weren't, we brought copies of our proposal. A couple of things I would like to mention. The paths will be 3 feet, not 2 feet as mentioned in the proposal. This is based on feedback from the last meeting.

Also based on the feedback of the last meeting, we would like to address why the location on the Green is preferable to somewhere else in the Ardens. First of all, Keri and I live in Arden. It makes sense if we found something ideal in this village that we would bring it to you first. A labyrinth is used in meditation and some have asked why have a meditative space on a busy Green. We and others have used the temporary labyrinth on the site and found that it is a beautiful and peaceful spot to meditate and take in the 360 degree splendor of the Green. But a labyrinth is also a metaphor for a journey or pilgrimage. In that way it is appropriate to use labyrinths at life . If the labyrinth is on the

Green, it could be used in conjunction with weddings at the Field Theater. It is located down the Milky Way path from the Memorial Gardens. I have walked labyrinths at Memorial services and those walks are always quite moving and healing. Also,we are placing this adjacent to the Soldier's and Sailor's memorial which make it a wonderful place to have walks of remembrance for our military and even commemorate events like 9/11. To commemorate seasons of the year. It would be a great meditation to do before entering Women in the Woods. Shakespearean actors can use it for memorizing lines. I could go on, but I think you get the picture. This is meant to be a dynamic labyrinth that will weave into the fabric of Arden culture. And if we take ownership of it and don't relegate it to a quiet corner, it will be something our kids remember about growing up in Arden. This isn't some fad. This is an ancient tool and we are building it with an eye to future generations.

That said, the labyrinth will not obstruct any views of the Green. It will be low maintenance. You will hardly notice it until you come upon it. We have a lot of support and volunteers in Ardentown and Ardencroft. And, we are very happy to report that since the last meeting, we have raised X dollars (Will bring exact figure that night—but it is just over $1000 as of today), which is a quarter of our budget. See me afterwards if you want to buy an Art Map of the Ardens.

Motion: We move to install/build a labyrinth on the northwest corner of the Arden Green, near the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, as shown in the exhibits presented at the June meeting.

Guidelines: Chairman provided guidelines for discussion. He suggested two sections. First, ten minutes for residente to ask questions to clarify and obtain information only. Not to debate. If time is left over, then non- residents may clarify. Second, allows twenty minutes for debate.

Questions:
Clarification Questions
Q. Does labyrinth design conform to legal requirements under American Disability Act?
A. To be investigated

Q. Can labyrinth be mowed over stones or trimmed with a weed trimmer?
A. Yes -Volunteers will help

Q. What is the rational for using the Schroeder funds?
A. Pendulum funds need to be requested through a committee. If the Town Assembly voted for the Labyrinth, then Civic Committee agreed to sponsor it through the Pendulum funds. The officers discussed it and believe it is an appropriate use of the funds and approved request. This was discussed at last town meeting.

Q. Is Labyrinth any different than the walkway which was not approved?
A. No different from the surface.

No more questions, then Motion was read second time
Discussions
Pros
Great benefit for children
It is a perfect addition to our greens.

Founding Fathers wanted greens to be recreation for all ages.
By personally walking the labyrinth, it was a calming and a healing experience.

Cons
Do not like location on the Arden Green.
Need to see the impact of the mound before making any other changes.
No plan has been provided
No cost –expenses provided
No clear understanding of what it will be or what effect it will have on the green.

Amend motion:
The approval is dependent on Labyrinth meeting ADA compliance.
Amended motion passed

VOTE
Read Motion: We move to install/build a labyrinth on the northwest corner of the Arden Green, near the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, as shown in the exhibits presented at the June Meeting. The approval is dependent on Labyrinth meeting ADA compliance.

Ballot Vote - **Motion** for secret ballot. **Motion Defeated**.

Vote- Motion Passed.

12.0 Committee Reports

12.1 Archives: Lisa Mullinax
It's the 11th Anniversary of the Arden Craft Shop Museum!
To celebrate, our 11th Anniversary exhibition, "Authors of the Ardens," will be opening on Sunday, October 25, during the Museum's regular hours of 1 to 3 p.m. We will be presenting authors who have lived in, or written about the Ardens. We have compiled 196 books, approximately 50 authors, and are featuring 14 of them. Who are they? Look at our website, ardencraftshopmuseum.com to find out.

We are partnering with other Ardens organizations for a number of book-related events. These will include:

- A Dinner Gild dinner with recipes from the Arden Cook Book
- An exhibition at the Arden Library
- A Scholars Gild program with presentations from contemporary authors
- A bookbinding demonstration and exhibition
- A presentation by Winterthur Fellows on care and preservation of books
- And finally, we will be featuring stories written by Arden children during the ACRA summer camp. If you have a child who would still like to write a story to be included in the exhibit, see Barbara Macklem for a blank book.

In related news:

Our sister community, Rose Valley in Pennsylvania will be having a "Once in a Lifetime Tour" to raise money for their own museum. The tour will feature the famed Thunderbird Lodge. As you may know, Rose Valley was designed by Will Price, one of the founders of Arden. The event is Sunday, October 18. Information on the Rose Valley website.

Today's "News Journal" had a story about an exhibition at the Biggs Museum in Dover, featuring Arden-made furniture from the Caroline Holt collection.

Archives Report Accepted

12.2 Audit: Helen Ohlson
The contents of the Barbacane Thornton annual external audits for Arden and the Trustees were reviewed and approved by the audit committee for the June meeting. The final copies of the audit have been received by the officers. The Audit Committee met on September 16 to perform a random internal audit. All is in order. Cookie Ohlson, Chair of Audit Committee

Audit Report accepted

12. 3 Motion Budget is next on agenda. However, one budget line item is dependent on how the Town Assembly votes on BWVC motion. Would request suspend rules and switch the order between Budget and BWVC so a request for monies can be addressed before the overall budget is presented. **Motion to suspend rules. (Flip flop between Budget and BWVC for clarity**). **Motion approved.**

12.4 BWVC: Steven Threefoot
BWVC Committee Report to the September 2015 Village of Arden Town Meeting
The Buzz Ware committee has a number of items to cover this evening. We will cover

- Building use and community programs
- Election of new committee member
- Financial status
- Capital fund request

Building Use and Community Programs: The use of the building (by our definition of slots) has been occupied ~40% of the time for the first six months of this fiscal year. The building current use is tracked in three buckets: guests, official use, and community programs. The breakout is approximately 40% rentals, 15% official use, and 45% community events.
As many of you know, the Buzz has sponsored a “Strength & Mobility” class twice a week (Tuesday & Thursday afternoons) and a Yoga class on Saturday morning. Since April, we have had over 800 participants in over 50 sessions. Many individuals participate in the classes regularly. Last week, we had our first Group Motion workshop. This event is a mix of music and dance and is in the evaluation stage. Look at the Buzz website for information on how to participate at the October session. In addition to these events, our Friday night events return starting this coming Friday. Art on the Town and the Coffee House are held on the 1st and 2nd Friday evening of the month,

respectively. We also have Fiber Arts, Painting and Drawing studio. Please take the time to look at the various sponsored events being held at the Buzz. If you find something interesting, join in. If you are interested in an event that is not available, do some homework on how broad the community interest might be and submit your idea via the ArdenBuzz.com website. The more people that use the Buzz as a community center, the stronger the Buzz will be.

Committee Election: The Buzz Ware has an open spot as John Martin has resigned from the committee. The committee submits to the Town Assembly Debbi Sheiker as a member of the Buzz Ware to serve out the term vacated by John. This term ends in March of 2017.

10 Years of PPP: This year was the 10th annual Holistic Expo. The vendors were happy, the patrons were happy, the committee was happy, and particularly, Randy Hoopes and Toby D'Alterio Ridings, as leaders of the effort, were very happy. PPP represents the largest fund raiser for the Buzz with all proceeds going into the building renovation fund. Thank you to all the volunteers both from within the Ardens and many friends from outside of the Ardens.

Financial: As of the end of August, the Buzz Ware's operating budget is positive by slightly more than $150. As the Treasurer's report indicates, the Buzz also has a strong renovation fund. This position is important for us to have as we will discuss our motion for funds from the capital reserve.

Capital Fund Request

As stated at the June Town Meeting, the BWVC Committee will now present a motion to the Town Assembly requesting funds for extensive exterior work on the Buzz Ware Village Center and the area leading up to the building. We would like to complete our report and then place the motion on the floor for debate.

Concluding Remarks

The overall state of the interior of the facility remains good. Randy Hoopes has done extensive touched-up to the interior paint to improve the appearance. Bill Theis donated a used refrigerator to replace a unit that had failed. We continue to work on the facilities for supporting potential catering, but are not at a point to make any decision.

Again, we want to thank all those that volunteer their time and resources to support the Buzz and the ongoing activities.

We do ask, if you observe something in or around the facility you find of a concern, or if you simply have a suggestion for facility improvements at the Buzz Ware, please contact a committee member, or go to the Buzz Ware website under "Contact". You can make comments, submit an idea for a community event or volunteer.

Respectively submitted,
Steven A Threefoot

Motion Committee Election: No other nominees from the floor. Debbi Sheiker voted to serve out the term vacated by John (Martin) which ends March of 2017.

Questions: None
BWVC Committee Report accepted

BWVC **Motion** to Request Capital from the Village Fund

Due to the need to do extensive maintenance work and repairs required to the exterior of the Buzz Ware Village Center, and the estimated costs for this work exceeds the Buzz Ware renovation fund, It is moved that in accordance with the capital reserve policy of the Village of Arden, the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee requests approval from the town assembly to spend funds from the

Village's capital reserve to cover 75% of the cost, or $25,000, whichever is less, to perform the necessary renovation work on the exterior of the Buzz Ware, the walk-way from the street, and apron in the front of the building. The additional funds will be provided from the Buzz Ware Renovation account, grants, and gifts.

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Supporting Information

The Buzz Ware Committee has defined the work in four phases as shown in the table below.

PROJECT PHASE	ESTIMATE
Chimney Removal / Cap	$4,500
Paving Apron / Walk	$4,000
General exterior repairs	$6,500
Exterior surface	$22,500
Total	$37,500

For the exterior work, we obtained at least four estimates that would meet the needs of the project. We have one or two estimates for the remaining phases. The total estimate for the project is $37,500. If this is the final cost, $25,000 would come from the capital reserve fund and $12,500 would come from the BWVC renovation fund.

Questions:
Chairperson reviewed the Capital maintenance fund purpose which is for the committees to use for capital maintenance. Two town meetings are required. The first is for announcing request for funds, which BWVC Committee did at the June Town Assembly. The second, is where we actually vote on the motion itself. That is the motion being presented now.

Stucco and lead clarification was discussed and they are researching various methods to apply. Continue to figure out what the best options are within the constraints of funds they have. Guiding principal is to maintain building as close as they can. It will be a decision made at the BWVC committee meetings and report findings at the January Town Assembly.
Discussion
No debate

Read **motion** again: BWVC Motion to Request Capital from the Village Fund
Due to the need to do extensive maintenance work and repairs required to the exterior of the Buzz Ware Village Center, and the estimated costs for this work exceeds the Buzz Ware renovation fund, It is moved that in accordance with the capital reserve policy of the Village of Arden, the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee requests approval from the town assembly to spend funds from the Village's capital reserve to cover 75% of the cost, or $25,000, whichever is less, to perform the necessary renovation work on the exterior of the Buzz Ware, the walk-way from the street, and apron in the front of the building. The additional funds will be provided from the Buzz Ware Renovation account, grants, and gifts.
Vote **Motion Unanimous approval**

12.5 Budget: Gary Quinton
The Arden Town Budget Committee has finalized the draft of the 2016-2017 Town Budget to go to

Referendum. Tonight is the last night for changes before the budget is changed from Draft to Final for referendum.

I want to thank all the committee chairs who validated their committee's budget for this process, and a special thanks to Denise Nordheimer, who made contact with each committee this year.

Not much has changed from last year. All committees provided budgets that were the same as previous year, except for Archives committee, which asked for a nominal increase to offset the cost of additional storage boxes based on recent donations to the Archives. There were some changes to the taxes and garbage collection, shown in the notes to the budget, none of which were very significant to the overall budget.

We received a request from one of the town's donations receivers, ACRA. ACRA provided the reasons for an increase of $500 this year, primarily due to increased expenses with running the program (new regulations and insurance requirements). ACRA has not received any increases in recent history, and after reviewing their request, the Budget Committee has recommended that we increase this donation from the town.

The 2015 Budget committee is recommending the future committees ask for budget increase reasons in writing from each Town committee with a budget, so the documentation can be provided in the minutes that year. We have taken the first step by publishing the ACRA request in the minutes, and for anyone who would like to see the ACRA request, I have limited copies available for tonight. The current committee will communicate with next year's March elected committee on this ongoing recommended practice.

One additional line item is in the Capital and Maintenance fund. This fund is currently at its $30,000 target. The Buzz Ware Village Center will need to have some outside remediation work done in the next calendar year. This budget has incorporated the back fill of the Capital and Maintenance fund, which may go into subsequent years to meet the target of $30,000.

With that, I am open for any questions,

Submitted by Gary E. Quinton, 2015 Budget Committee Chair

Budget Report Accepted

A copy of 2016-2017 Arden Budget Ballot Draft and notes Attachments
A copy of ACRA's letter of request to increase donations Attachments

12.6 Civic: Co Chairs Ed Rohrbach, Al Marks
The committee planted two white Pine Trees in the Soldiers Memorial on The Arden Green to replace some that died and were removed some years ago. Pruning and care of the other trees on the Arden Greens is also on going.

We are also planning to remove a Pin Oak and a Red Maple in the area between The Sweep and Lower Lane that are in very bad shape. We will also remove the section of split rail fence along The Sweep in that area.

We are also working to replace 11 road signs that have gone missing over the years, and two new ones directing folks to the Craft Shop Museum with signs of the same stile and material as the original ones.

We would also like to propose that signage be placed at the intersection of Orleans and Millers Road directing cars to stay to the right of the island when making a turn there.

The next meeting of the Civic Committee is scheduled for October 6th at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted
Edward Rohrbach
Co-Chair

Questions:
Suggest signage/plaques to identify the several historical memorials in the Village. Walking Tour maps available at the Archives for $3.00 identify historical memorials.

Intersection of Millers Rd and Orleans Rd: Confusing intersection and roundabout, and signage on wrong side of road. Request that we do not post any more signs. Remind guests that the speed limit 20 mph. Traffic circle has been suggested. To be discussed further at committee meeting.

Civic Committee Report Accepted

12.7 Community Planning: Ray Seigfried
FEMA Flood Insurance;
At our January meeting Town Assembly approved an amendment to our *Resolution for the National Flood Insurance Program*. At our March meeting I reported that there was no progress from FEMA on our resolution. In July I received notice that the maps had changed, which requires us once again to modify our resolution to include both map panels. A copy of this change is presented before you for consideration and approval. The **motion** for this change is as follows,
:Community Planning Committee motions that,
Town Assembly accept the additional phase of "and FIRM panel 10003C0086K dated 2/4/2015" as part of section 1. of our Resolution for the National Flood Insurance Program.
Motion Approved

Community Gardens;
This past growing season was once again very successful with all plots used for gardens.
Memorial Gardens
Ruth Bean has retired as the contact person for Memorial Gardens and Barbara Henry has agreed to become the new contact person. I want to thank Ruth for all of her many years of dedication to maintaining Memorial Gardens and welcome Barbara in her new role.
Vacant House Registration Ordinance;

At our March meeting I reported that New Castle County approved a new Vacant Housing Ordinance and had a resolution approved by Town Assembly to obtain an exception from their ordinance. John Cartier our County Councilman and I met with County Council attorney and have prepared a motion for this exception. This should be approved at one of the two meetings county council holds in October. Once our exception is approved Community Planning will move ahead with completing our ordinance process for last year's vacancy houses and begin action on this year's process.

Governance Plan for stewardship of the Arden Greens

At our last meeting the question of creating a land use plan for all of the Arden Greens was raised. Arden adopted some time ago a forest stewardship policy and the idea here would be to develop guidelines for a stewardship program for the greens. We will be exploring this topic and welcome everyone to attend our meeting held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 Buzz Ware.

Community Committee Report accepted

Resolution for the National Flood Insurance Program

WHEREAS, Town Assembly of Arden being aware of the recurring flooding and the threat of flooding from Naamans Creek and the resulting damage to property located within Arden: and

WHEREAS, there is a desire and need for the program of insurance coverage for those who reside or hold title to property located within such flood-prone areas: and,

WHEREAS, relief is available in the form of flood insurance as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended: and,

WHEREAS, the regulations declared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under said Act require [1] an official legislative or executive act indicating a local need for flood insurance and a desire to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, and [2] assurances in the form of action by the appropriate local legislative body committing the local legislative body to certain future courses of action;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by Town Assembly of Arden:

THAT, it will comply with the regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program:

1) To recognize and duly evaluate flood hazards and risk located on FIRM panel 10003C0086J dated 01/17/2007 and FIRM panel 10003C0086K dated 2/4/2015, mudslide [i.e., mudflow] and/or flood-related erosion hazards in all official actions in the areas having special flood, mudslide [i.e. mudflow] and/or flood-related erosion hazards and to take such other official action reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the program; and,

2) To assist the Land Use Department of New Castle County as Administrator of this program in delineation of the limits of the areas having special flood, mudslide or flood-related erosion hazards; and,

3) To provide such information concerning present uses and occupancy of the flood plain, mudslide or flood-related erosion areas as the administrator may request; and,

4) To maintain for public inspection and furnish upon request, for the determination of applicable flood insurance risk premium rates within all areas having special flood hazards identified on a Flood Insurance Rate Map [FIRM], any certificates of flood proofing, and information on the elevation [in relation to mean sea level] of the level of the lowest floor [including basement] of all new or substantially improved structures, and include whether or not such structures contain a basement, and if the structure has been flood-proofed, the elevation [in relation to mean sea level] to which the structure was flood proofed, that NCCDLU will maintain records of building permit applications in the floodplain, records of the elevation certificates for structures constructed in or near the floodplain.: and,

5) To cooperate with Federal, State, and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify flood plain, mudslide [i.e. mudflow] or flood-related erosion areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to the management of adjoining flood plain, mudslide [i.e., mudflow] and/or flood related erosion areas in order to prevent aggravation of existing hazards; and,

6) Upon occurrence, to notify the Administrator in writing whenever the boundaries of the community have been modified by annexation or the community has otherwise assumed or no longer has authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for a particular area. In order that all FIRM's accurately represent the community's boundaries, include within such notification a copy of a map of the community suitable for reproduction, clearly delineating the new corporate limits or new area for which the community has assumed or relinquished flood plain management regulatory authority and,

7) To appoint New Castle County Land Use Department with the responsibility, authority, and means to implement the commitments made herein and to submit annually or biennially a report to the Administrator on the progress made during the past within the community in the development and implementation of flood plain management measure. NCCDLU will furnish the data to Arden. As a participating community, Arden, with the assistance of NCCDLU complete all reporting requirements to FEMA.

8) To notify FEMA and State NFIP Coordinator within 30 days of changes to Local Services Agreement with New Castle County.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20_____
Arden Chairman_____ Attest: _____RJS
9/27/15

Community Planning Report Accepted

12.8 Forest: Co Chair Carol Larson
Schroeder Grant Project at 2409 Woodland Lane: Steps have been carved, regrading and pulling back the crusher run and planting has been done. Our next step is to put in a hand rail, bollards to prevent encroachment demarcate the trail and native plants along the arc wall.
Buckingham Greene: We received a proposal from Biohabitats, based in Maryland. We also did a site walk with Foresite, a local water resources firm.

Removals and fallen trees. Emergency removals on Hillside, clearing fallen trees behind Threefoots and the path approaching Indian Circle
Scheflen pond: The committee is working with the resident, who has taken considerable care preparing an engineering analysis to construct a planted swale/raingarden to filter the water from his property and then let it flow evenly from the back of his property into the woods. We hope this will improve water quality and eliminate some of the erosion. Construction is planned for this fall.
Dumping and encroachment issues: We continue to have problems with forest adjacent leaseholds and neighboring developments dumping yard waste as well as residents parking in the woods. We are planning to survey the woods border to get a clearer idea of exact boundaries so we can face these issues.
Paths: Hank Borders is planning a new path in the Avery property for his Eagle project.
Invasive plant species: We have a new document listing the most troublesome invasive species, and our methods of removal. If you would like to receive a digital copy, please send your email to the forest committee. This document will be posted on the Facebook page "Forests of the Ardens"
Stream Watch: Seven residents in addition to the committee indicated interest in participating in a Stream watch including water analysis. If you would like to be included in training for this at the Delaware Nature Society, please contact the Forest Committee
Questions:
Mike Curtis reminded all that the Avery Property is now called the Sherwood Forest Annex and it is a leasehold and not a property.

Forest Report accepted

12.9 Playground: Jim Laurino
The committee reports that the playgrounds are in good condition. We are continuing to work on upgrading the swing sets and raking mulch.
The committee's focus has been to make the best replacement we can for the slide on the Arden Green.
In the time of this project many volunteers have helped the committee. I will not take the time to name them all, and I fear I might forget someone if I tried, but the town, and I, owe them a debt of gratitude. Thank you all.
We are happy to report that, due to the generous donations of Arden residents, followed by a recent gift from the Claymont Lions Club, we have enough money to be able to start building. There are two grant requests pending now, and we are confident that, through these or other sources if needed, we will have the funds to build a fantastic slide.
We expect to present our plans to the officers at the next town officers meeting to secure their approval for disbursing the pendulum fund match. We are currently negotiating with a contractor for the bulk of the construction work, with a desired start around mid-October. At our next playground committee meeting, on Thursday, 8 October at 7:15 PM, we will present the slide plans and discuss them with interested residents.
The new slide will offer many more play opportunities for children than the old slide. It will also offer access and recreation benefits for adults. We are confident that it will be an asset to the town for many years.
Questions:
Concerns expressed:
Enough money to complete project

Scale plan and cost estimate
Compliance with ADA guidelines
Expressed receiving inconclusive answers to numerous questions pertaining plan, design and cost, safety (stoned steps), etc. Further expressed, that by now expected to have significant concrete information available.
No updated website
No updated bulletin boards
Where slide purchased – more than one quote

In response to concerns, a meeting is scheduled for October 8 in which a scaled plan and cost estimates will be provided.

Motion: No earthwork shall commence with regard to the construction of the mound until such time as the village has approved a scaled drawing of the mound proposal, a cost estimate for the mound proposal and the time line for construction of the mound.

Chairman reminded that first; the January approved motion was based on the Committee approve an idea. It was not approved on a specific drawing. It was approved to go ahead without having to go back to the town. It was approved "as is" with the Playground Committee given the authority to design and install the mound. Secondly, the approval of the Pendulum funds had conditions attached to it that nothing can be done with those funds until the town officers had approved a plan similar to what Jeff (Steen) is suggesting.

Speak Against Motion:
Satisfied with current checks and balances in place, drawings, grant applications that require documentation which was satisfied. Not necessary to add additional burden on top of a volunteer committee that is working very hard. etc.

Red Herring of the century

Speak For Motion:
Amend Current Motion: To include all proper compliances documented. **Amended Motion Defeated**.

Question Called

Read **Motion**: No earthwork shall commence with regard to the construction of the mound until such time as the village has approved a scaled drawing of the mound proposal, a cost estimate for the mound proposal and the time line for construction of the mound. **Motion defeated**

Denise Nordheimer thanked Jim who she believes has been put in a very vulnerable position and reminds us that many of the members of the Playground Committee were harassed off of the committee. As she pointed out- people who seek specific answers - There is not a lot of institutional memory left on this committee. She reminds all that Jim is trying to address these concerns and she feels as though we should give him the benefit of the doubt and indeed a medal. Hearty Applause.

Playground Report Accepted

12.10 Registration: Cecilia Vore
Sept 28, 2015
Report to the Town Assembly
Registration Committee

The Registration Committee will conduct the annual Budget Referendum, and the election of the Arden Board of Assessors in October and November. The Committee will update the list of eligible voters this week. Please notify a member of the Registration Committee tonight if there are any changes to the eligible voters in your household.

Assessors nominees are invited to post a position statement on the town website. Information on how voters can read those statements will be included on the ballot instructions.

Ballots will be mailed around Oct. 15. The deadline for returning ballots is 7:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov 10, which will be printed on the ballot instructions that are mailed to each resident. Ballots will be counted on Nov. 10 at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The public is invited to attend, and several volunteers are needed to assist the committee with the count. Results will be posted on the bulletin boards and the Village website the day following the vote count.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Vore, chair

Registration Report accepted

12.11 Safety: Brooke Bovard
The committee continues to work on safe and effective signage in the village, and traffic calming on Harvey road. We are indebted to committee and community members who wish to remain anonymous, but I will brag of them to anyone, for work done in replacing signs.

After much haggling, we succeeded in getting DelDOT to repair the crosswalks on Harvey road, and to correct the crossing time at the light. They even heeded our pleas to accomplish this before the fair. In conjunction with civic, walkways have been added to the crosswalk access on Orleans.

Further improvements to Harvey are pending clarification on the funding for them. The state requires a maintenance contract with municipalities for such improvements, and we are finding out what the costs and benefits of both approaches are. We hope to report back, soon.

I've spoken to smart911 about making a presentation on their program.

Speaking personally, I need to offer two thank yous and an apology. The first thank you is to my committee. They are hard working, committed and extraordinarily valuable to this community. We are lucky to have them. The second is to the town meeting, for making that possible. Ya done good.

The apology is to Chris Junk, the most recently re-elected member of that committee. He was a

valued member of the committee until my error in recruiting for the March election. He was in limbo until he was reelected in June, and he ran into the organizational chaos that my summer was. I never properly welcomed him back, and my communication was spotty. I was rude, and I gave him the impression he wasn't valued... An impression that was entirely untrue. And I'm sorry. I am thrilled to have him aboard, and hope he continues to be involved. Welcome, Chris.

That is my report.
Brooke Bovard, for the safety committee.

Questions
Smart 911 is a County program that is aware of any special disability equipment that would be needed if an emergency call has been placed.

Safety Committee Report accepted.

13.0 Old Business:

14.0 New Business: Ruth Panella - She hopes more will be done to acknowledge Ruth Bean's many years of service for the Memorial Garden . Suggest a letter of appreciation for town officer.

Steven Threefoot - State Legislature allows municipalities to classify their municipal buildings as gun-free zones. Suggest that the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee along with Community Planning work together to evaluate our municipal buildings become gun-free zones.

Chairman, Jeff Politis, There was a point of order earlier about what is appropriate for here and what is appropriate for committees. He believes it is fair that people can question committees if they cannot attend committee meetings. However, he encourages people who have questions and or comments don't wait until the Town Meeting. Committee meetings are where a lot of the town business is addressed. We are lucky that our government is done by our neighbors and friends and continue to use that to our advantage by talking to each other.

15 .0 Good & Welfare
Bill Theis thanked all three Villages for all of their support for him and his wife.

Brooke Bovard: Another new voter who just turned 18 today, Rowan. He will be receiving absentee ballot for the next elections. Chair: Congratulations to Rowan .
Meeting Adjourned 10:12 P.M.
Respectfully submitted-
Elizabeth Resko
SecretaryTown of Arden

Attachments Next Page

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 28, 2015

Checking/Savings		
1000 · TD Bank Operating Account	71,157	General operating
1005 - ING Direct	77,824	General operating, Renovation Funds, Memorial Garden Funds, Vacant Property Funds
	148,982	Total General Operating
1000 · TD Bank Operating Account	62,795	Buckingham Green Settlement Funds
1000 · TD Bank Operating Account	5,873	Playground Mound
1005A - ING Direct	30,188	Capital Maintenance Fund
1010 · TD Bank MSA Checking Account	8,398	Municipal Street Aid
1032 - Arden Building & Loan	29,800	Schroeder Bequest
1000 · TD Bank Operating Account	9,624	Schroeder Bequest
1005 - ING Direct	51,093	Schroeder Bequest
1050 - Raymond James	151,002	Schroeder Bequest
1033 - Vanguard Money Market	159,571	Schroeder Bequest
Total Schroeder Bequest	401,090	Total Schroeder Bequest
1030 · Arden Building & Loan	10,410	Hamburger Lecture Series
1005 - ING Direct	4,352	Hamburger Lecture Series
1031 · Arden Building & Loan	508	Buzzware Funds
1500 - Sherwood Forest	559,379	Original purchase price
TOTAL ASSETS	1,531,973	
LIABILITIES		
2000 · Accounts Payable & Current Liabilities	735	
2010 · Payroll Taxes Liabilities	745	
2300 · Mortgage -AB&L Avery Property - Balance as of 3/1/15	48,280	15 yr note at 7% for $150,000 began 4/26/04
Total Liabilities	49,760	
FUND BALANCES		
Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	21,039	
Lecture Series	14,762	
J Schroeder Bequest	401,090	
Memorial Garden	11,515	
MSA	8,398	
Capital Maintenance Fund	30,188	
Village - general fund	100,197	
Vacant Dwelling Fund	15,267	
Playground Mound Fund	5,873	
Buckingham Green Settlement Fund	62,795	
Capital Assets - Net of Debt	611,099	
Total Equity	1,482,213	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,531,973	

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY

Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Activity
As of September 28, 2015

	3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Budget	% to Budget	
Revenue				
4000 - General Funds - Village	100,000	203,298	49.19%	
* 4100 - Donations, grants, rentals	2,640	-		
+ 4510 - Franchise Fee Receipts	4,450	15,100	29.47%	
4900 - Interest Income	258	500	51.54%	
Total Revenue	107,347	218,898	49.04%	
				balance left in budget
Expenses				
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	6,138	13,298	46.16%	7,160
6300 - Administrative Expenses	13,478	42,724	31.55%	29,246
8000 - Committee Expenses	36,657	74,100	49.47%	37,443
8010 - Contributions & Donations	5,900	5,950	99.16%	50
Contigency Fund	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000
8030 - Trash Service	28,581	56,650	50.45%	28,069
9000 - Debt Service	8,090	16,176	50.01%	8,086
Total Expense	98,844	218,898	45.16%	120,054
Surplus (deficit)	8,503	-		
				balance left in budget
Committee	Actuals YTD	Budget		
Advisory	-	200	0.00%	200
Archives	596	1,440	41.38%	344
Assessors	34	50	68.98%	16
Budget	-	75	0.00%	75
Buzz Wars - general operating support	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Buzzware renovation fund	2,000	2,000	100.00%	-
Civic	29,110	56,135	51.86%	27,026
Community Planning	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Forest	4,458	6,000	74.30%	1,542
Registration	59	200	29.47%	141
Safety	400	2,000	20.00%	1,500
	36,657	74,100	49.47%	37,443

* DCED Grant $2,214.00, Field Theatre Rentals $425

\+ Comcast = $1,796, Verizon = $2,475

DITED
DISTRIBUTION
DISCUSSION
POSES ONLY
ARDEN
N ASSEMBLY

Special Village Funds

	RuzzWare 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Budget	% to Budget	Ruzz Innovation 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Hamburger Lecture Series 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	J. Schroeder Bequest 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Memorial Garden 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	MSA 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Capital/Maint/RepairFund 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Vacant Dwelling Fund 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Playground Mound 3/25/15 - 9/28/15	Buckingham Green Fund 3/25/15 - 9/28/15
ue												
0 - General Funds - Village	-	-		2,000					-	-	-	-
0 - Donations	2,050	-		1,841	-	-	3,928	-	-	-	5,617	-
0 - Program Revenue	3,248	10,400	31.21%	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
0 - MSA Grant	-	-		-	-	-	-	16,586		-	-	-
0 - Rentals	10,981	29,000	37.87%	4,808	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Vacant Property Registration Fees	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	3,800	-	-
0 - Interest Income	10	-		-	202	522	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue	16,287	39,400	41.34%	8,649	202	522	3,928	16,586	-	3,800	5,617	-
ses												
0 - Payroll & PR Taxes	9,334	22,600	41.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Administrative Expenses	42	315	13.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Janitorial Supplies	305	1,300	23.38%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Utilities	1,902	4,750	31.83%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/Alarm/Monitoring	391	1,102	35.47%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Renovations	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Repairs & Maintenance	219	2,000	10.94%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0 - Program Expenses	3,218	7,500	42.91%	2,503	-	1,200	1,438	25,850	-	118	118	-
Expenses	15,012	39,767	37.75%	2,503		1,200	1,438	25,850	-	118	118	-
s (Deficit)	1,275	(367)		6,046	202	(678)	2,090	(9,264)	-	3,682	5,500	-
rried forward fund balance				14,963	14,560	421,768	9,425	17,662	30,180	11,585	373	62,795
d balance				21,009	14,762	421,090	11,515	8,398	30,180	15,267	5,873	62,795

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1. The total approved expenditure limits the fiscal year expenditure to that amount unless additional funds are approved by referendum. Funds may be shifted between line items with approval of the committees involved and the Treasurer.

2. Income received by committees outside of this budget, such as from grants, will be earmarked for that committee to spend above the budgeted money approved by referendum. In addition, those monies can be carried over year over year for that committee with approval of the the Town treasurer.

Notes to 2016 – 2017 ARDEN BUDGET BALLOT • *Prepared Sept. 2015*

INCOME:

1. **Land Rent** – Based on Assessors' report from June 2015 Town Meeting. Note that Trustees will transfer money to the town to cover Town's budget.
2. **Delaware Municipal Street Aid** – Annual street aid. The State of Delaware is providing funds for the FY 2016.
3. **Interest and other Income** – Income from the following sources:
   a. **Rights-of-way**
      i. **Cable – $8,600**
      ii. **Antenna – $6,500**
   b. **Investment income – $7,950**

   Reserve – Combination of Trustees' Prudent Reserve ($152,000) and Town's Prudent Reserve ($103,000) and accrued capital fund of $30,000.
4. Buzz Ware Village Center – Estimated income for 2016/17 based on projected revenues from rentals, programs, grants, and donations.

NON-DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES:

5. **Property Taxes** – Decrease of $6,136 from 2015-2016 budget.
   a. County Taxes – New Castle County taxes are estimated to increase by $1,851 compared to YE 2015 levels.
   b. School Taxes – School Taxes are estimated to decrease $7,987 vs YE 2015.

   NOTE: The New Castle County property and school taxes are grossed up to include rebates paid to qualifying leaseholders.
6. **Trash/Recycle Service** – Increase of $1,700.
7. **Trust Administration**
   a. Audit – $4,800
   b. Professional/Legal – $4,500
   c. Administrative/Operations – $13,800
   d. Office Rent – $2,400
8. **Village Non-budget**
   a. Operation and Fees – $31,762 (3% over last year)
   b. Insurance – $11,330 (Trust and Village)
   c. Salaries - $11,450
   d. Payroll taxes – $1,848
9. **BWVC Operations** – Estimated expenses for operating the facility and running programs for 2016/17. This entry includes all utilities, payroll, licenses and fees to operate the building. This entry does not include insurance expenses for operating and maintaining the facilities (note 8). BWVC Renovation Fund from Arden of $2,000 matches other villages' recent annual contributions.
10. **Long-term Debt Service** – Purchase of Sherwood Forest property.
11. **Delaware Municipal Street Aid** – Annual Street Aid – pass-through expense.

DISCRETIONARY BUDGET EXPENSES:

12. **Advisory** – No change
13. **Archives** – $360 increase
14. **Board of Assessors** – No change
15. **Capital, Maintenance, and Repair Fund** – Drawdowns expected this FY.
16. **Civic** – No change
17. **Community Planning** – No change
18. **Forests** – No change.
19. **Playground** – Per previous year's expenses
20. **Registration** – No change
21. **Safety** – No change
22. **Speed Enforcement** – Harvey Rd. Fees. - No Change
23. **Buzz Ware Support** – Village support for BWVC based on prior years' experience in Maintenance & Operations. These funds would only be used in case of budget income shortfall from rentals.
24. **Town Expenses**
    a. ACRA Donations – $500 increase per request
    b. Arden Page Donations – No change
    c. Arden Library Donation – No change
    d. Fire Companies Donation – No change
    e. Arden Club Donation – No Change
25. **Contingencies** – No change.
26. **Budget** – No change

Deadline:

Ballots must be received by 7:30pm Tues, Nov. 3

Arden Community Recreation Association
2119 The Highway; Wilmington, DE 19801

September 23, 2015
Village of Arden Budget Committee
C/O Gary Quinton
2119 The Highway
Arden, DE 19801
geq44@hotmail.com

Via email

Dear Budget Committee,

As the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Arden Community Recreation Association (ACRA), I speak for the Board in expressing our great appreciation for the support Arden has shown ACRA over the years. We recently acknowledged the graciousness of the Buzz Ware Village Center committee and the Village of Arden for the use of the Buzz during the summer program in the Arden Page and on our closed group Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/211649919016167/).

It is because of the long tradition of support from the three villages that we reach out to request that you consider recommending that the Village of Arden increase its annual donation to ACRA. Our records show that Arden has contributed $1,500 every year since 2002. ACRA has continued to serve our mission in nurturing a strong community during that time.

ACRA was founded in 1948 and uniquely serves residents of the three Arden Villages; all residents are members, and only residents may be members. Our mission is to strengthen our community through recreation. We host several events throughout the year, including a pancake breakfast in the Arden Woods, a House and Garden Tour, 4th of July Games on the Green, holiday events, and more. We are supported through donations, fundraising efforts, and hundreds of hours of volunteer service. While we offer year round activities for residents of all ages, our flagship program is a five-week summer program exclusively for children of the Ardens.

One of my favorite ACRA mottos is "Children that play well together, become adults that govern well together." This highlights why the village governments need to support ACRA; we instill and build a sense of community that is the foundation of town assembly government. As you know, people don't serve on town committees or attend town meetings for power, money, or glory; they give their time and talent because they care about our community. ACRA is essential at nurturing that love of community through our events, each designed to reach across generations and differences so that we care a little more about our neighbors and our towns.

We are asking, for the first time in over a decade, for Arden to increase its support of ACRA. The costs of our programming has increased, and like many organizations dependent on donations, the difficult economy has flattened our fundraising to some degree. New regulations and insurance requirements have increased our costs significantly for our standard programs over the years, and yet we have maintained the quality of our programs and increased participation at our events. While it is amazing that we run a high-quality summer program on a shoestring budget, even periodic minimum wage increases impact our small budget in big ways.

While Arden is by far our biggest donor, recently Ardentown increased their long-time donation amount by 36% in recognition of the tremendous value we bring to the community. We ask that you consider a similar increase. We request that as the Budget Committee, you propose and recommend a budget to the Village of Arden that includes a $500 increase in the annual ACRA donation for a total donation of $2,000. A greater value in the Village budget cannot be found.

Finally, we welcome the entire committee to get involved in ACRA. Please contact me by email at pdpolitis@yahoo.com, on my cell phone (610-209-8362) with any questions. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Pam Politis
Chair, Board of Directors
Budget Committee Report Accepted.