

Community Planning Committee
Minutes, 16 February, 2011

Present: Committee members Cynthia Dewick, Danny Schweers, Ray Seigfried (chair), and Sally Sharpe. Absent: Ron Meick.

Ray called this meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in Room 2 of the Buzz Ware Village Center. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously with two corrections.

Long-Vacant Houses: Letters & Fees

A sample letter to be mailed to owners of leaseholds that have been vacant one (1) year or older, and the plan for mailing it, was approved at the January, 2011, Town Meeting.

The Town Assembly also approved our continuing work on registration fees for long-vacant houses. Cynthia suggested that we base any proposed vacant house registration fee as closely as possible on that of Wilmington, which has had one on the books for years, and has won every court case brought against it. In the next few weeks, if possible, members of the committee will meet with the City of Wilmington person heading their effort, to learn more about that city's experience with such fees. Also, Cynthia hopes to arrange a meeting with a real estate attorney, to gain their insights into our village creating long-vacant house fees.

TO DO: In the next week, committee members should ask people in the village about their concerns about long-vacant house fees and forward those comments to Ray.

Request for Changes in County Land-Use Codes

We still expect this to come to a vote at County Council in April.

Impermeable Surfaces

Sally still would like to see impermeable surfaces discouraged in Arden. We may examine this issue at our next meeting.

Nominees for March Elections

Ray, Ron, and Sally are up for re-election in March, 2011 and have agreed to be nominated again. Six nominees are needed to fill three positions. The other three nominees are Nancy Ellis, Harold Kalmus, and Lillian Shah.

Next Meeting, Adjournment

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. at The Buzz. This meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m., an extraordinarily short meeting so Danny could get to his next meeting: a discussion by his men's book group of Dorothy Sayers mystery novel, *The Nine Tailors*. Coincidentally, a women's book group also met that evening, to discuss the emotionally satisfying novel, *Little Bee* by

Chris Cleave. Because the two book groups broke up about the same time, men and women happened to cross paths on Lovers Lane. Tension filled the taut February air. Boasts were traded as to whose book group was best. Happily, the confrontation did not escalate beyond words, much to the men's relief.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Schweers, Committee Secretary