

Civic Monthly Meeting
October 4, 2016

Attendance: Al Marks, Ed Rohrbach, Liz Resko, Harold Kalmus, Mick Fitzharris

Guest: Jim Laurino

Meeting Commenced at 7: 38 pm

National Standard for road clearance - Jim Laurino

Jim Laurino attended Civic meeting to express his concern about Arden's road clearance for fire trucks and emergencies vehicles. Jim wanted to know if there is a policy about road clearance in Ardens? Civic informed Jim that this is Safety Committee's responsibility and suggested for him to speak to them. Jim expressed that he did not feel as though Safety had the resources to implement and comply with National Standards. He also feels as though this is not Safety's responsibility, but sees this as road maintenance, which he believes should be Civic Committee's responsibility. Al and Ed spoke to Jim at length about going to Safety Committee, and discussing standards, and finding out where Safety is on clearance of overgrowth, committee role, policies and procedures. He disagreed.

Civic reminded Jim that he presented his road clearance concerns at September 2016 Advisory Meeting and at the September Town Meeting; in both, he was instructed to speak to Safety Committee. He disagreed.

Jim is planning on presenting a motion at the next Town Assembly (He did not read motion into minutes but he provided hard copy.)

Motion

Adequate overhead clearance on roads is important for many reasons:

Whereas our valued trees should not be subject to damage by passing trucks.

And whereas fire safety requires proactively minimizing the avoidable risk from fire.

And whereas Arden residents should not be subject to undue risk in a fire emergency.

And whereas the local fire company has informed us that there are many places on our roads where overhead trees impede swift access.

I move that Arden adopt a policy of maintaining minimum overhead clearance on our roads in accordance with national standards. Within a month Arden should employ a qualified arborist to bring our roads into compliance. This work should be done in a way this is expected to last for at least a year. Because trees must grow, Arden must also budget to perform an annual arborist review and correction of new problems. Arden must also compile a list of utility obstacles on the roads and begin working with those companies to bring their lines into compliance with national norms.

Al informed Jim that he could make a motion at the next Town Assembly Meeting without going through the appropriate channels, but warned him it will probably be tabled and he will probably be instructed to discuss it at the committee level.

Jim received a letter from Bruce Paterson, a member of the Board of Directors of Claymont Fire Company, in response to his reaching out to them about his concerns for Arden road clearance. Liz said that contacting Claymont Fire Company was specifically mentioned at September Advisory Meeting, in which it was suggested that Safety could reach out to Claymont Fire Company. Liz believes that individuals should not act on their own in representing the town and that is why we have committees. Liz read the September Advisory Meeting Minutes to Jim, since he said he was not aware that the Advisory board suggested for him to go to Safety

with his concerns and ask Safety to reach out to Claymont Fire Company. The minutes supported Liz's statement.

Jim still believes clearance of the overgrowth is road maintenance and therefore it's Civic responsibility. He wants to know if road clearance can be considered as road maintenance; then, would Civic assume responsibility? Civic agreed they would accept the clearance of overgrowth if Safety and Advisory want it to be considered as road maintenance and if they want the responsibility to go under Civic Committee. Everyone thanked Jim.

Approval of Minutes: September 2016 Civic Meeting Minutes approved as presented.

Tree Removal

Civic received approval from BWVC committee to cut down the two birches and the maple trees that are shading out and interfering with the solar panels. They are not looking for replanting at this time. Al would like to offer in good stewardship to replace trees that are removed and install with small low shade trees to shade the picnic tables. What is needed is a fast growing tree with high branches (i.e. red maple). Al presented a Motion in good stewardship to replace the trees cut down with shade trees for shading picnic table. Motion Unanimously Approved.

Walkway Ed did not get a chance to talk to Cropper.

Picnic Table Design Al did not get a chance to talk to the Greens about presenting a design for a picnic table.

Street Names

Referred to previous minutes - read as follows:

Need the Trustees to approve naming roads in Arden and then present to New Castle County Mapping. Also to notify and/or obtain permission from

Post Office. Should also talk to Community Planning. Cottage Lane, Pump Path, Fire Lane.

Ed said after that meeting we brought it up to Jeff Politis and he said he would do it.

Al will talk to Jeff about the status of naming the roads.

Roads

Series of small potholes: Mill Lane, Pond Lane, Sherwood & Marsh Rd. Al will obtain estimate.

Tree

Ron's Tree Service did not bill all summer and finally submitted an itemized bill for services provided since July 8, in the amount of \$7,210.

Wasp nest - The base of tree is on the Green and is hanging over the road at Cherry Lane and Woodland Lane. Ed will take down in winter.

Adjournment of meeting 8:39

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Resko

Village Secretary