The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 26, 1979 with Chairman, Thomas E. Colgan presiding.

As required by Senate Bill No. 256, the following is the list of the attenders at this meeting:

Gail Rinehart  
Ruth Shaw  
Shaul Gladstone  
Michael K. Curtis  
Mary Jane Jackson  
B.A. Passanante  
Alton Dahl  
Carolyn Liberman  
Zola Davis  
Kathleen Worth  
Mary T. Kumme  
A. Barnes King  
Peter Nicholas (Visitor)  
Aaron Hamburger  
Ruth Estes  
Joan W. Colgan  
Penny Payne  
Sarah Hamburger  
James P. Mann  
Janet Macnamara  
Marjorie van Gulick  
Kimberly Landis  
Irene Heymann  
Lee Starr  
Gane Shaw  
Beverly Gladstone  
Bertha Brooks  
Chris Jackson  
Thomas E. Colgan  
Beverly A. Barnett  
Cy Liberman  
Clyde Davis  
Betty Tonnesen  
Frances Trench  
Sue Drury  
Aaron Tanzer  
Paul Thompson  
Andrew Foote  
Patricia Press  
Elizabeth Varley  
Mamie Woolery  
William Bindloss  
Beatrice Jaffe  
Bunni Hurlong  
Marianne Cinaglia  
Frank Heymann  
Mary Morley  
Virginia E. Shaw  
Micky Maguire  
William Morley  
Barbara Fenske  
Reese Davis  
Mary E. Bradford  
Tony Colgan  
Helen Macklem  
Frank Akutowicz  
David Richardson  
Sarah Tanzer  
Dora Johnson  
Nancy Hijar  
Tom Stapleford  
William Press  
John D. Hewlett  
Virginia Mann  
Rae Gerstine  
Leslie Stanford  
John Landis  
Maryanne van Neerden  
John Grimaldi

The minutes of the January, 1979 were approved as circulated.

A motion was made and accepted unanimously to dispense with the regular order of business to honor William P. Frank and to vote for the slate of committee members and officers of the Town Assembly.

Because Kathleen Worth is leaving Arden and cannot serve out her term on the Civic Committee, nominees were requested from the floor. William Berry was nominated and accepted.

John Brand has left and he had been nominated on the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee and on the Playground Committee. Alton Dahl was nominated for the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee and John Landis was nominated for the Playground Ground committee. These nominations were accepted.

The Registration Committee conducted the election.

Thomas Colgan presented a certificate of merit from the Town Assembly to William P. Frank. Tom cited Bill Frank’s service to Arden during the many years that he lived here, but he mentioned that Bill Frank had kept the idea of Arden alive in his radio talks and in the many articles he has written about the Village in the Wilmington papers. In his acceptance of the award, Bill gave an interesting talk on how he became interested in Arden as a very young man and of course, he lived in the town for many years. He did mention that one of his greatest regrets that he never learned the named and locations of many of the roads.
The copy of the Budget for 1978-79 was circulated and Cy Liberman, Trustee, explained that the Board of Trustees are investing the income in the local banks to collect up to 9.4% interest while the money is not needed for expenses and taxes, in order to earn as much money as possible. The town finances are in solid condition. A copy of the Financial Report is on file.

There was no report from the Assessors or Budget Committee.

Reese Davis reported for the Civic Committee. He reported that the committee met with Mrs. Marshall, owner and Jake Hunt, Foreman of Hope's Suburban Garbage. A thorough review was conducted of our various problems with trash collections, particularly during February. Specific corrective measures were described to the Committee, and it is apparent that these have had the effect of improving the level of service. It should be noted that the Committee has obtained an additional competitive bid in the event it becomes necessary to terminate the agreement with Hope's.

A tour of the Town will be held in April. In May the annual Town clean-up for collection of large trash will be held. All residents will be notified by special announcements.

The Committee has accepted with regrets the resignation of Kathy Worth. She has been a valuable and hard working addition to the Civic Committee over the past year. Four members will elected this evening-three for 2 years and one for a 1 year term. The committee report was accepted unanimously.

Cy Liberman reported for the Community Planning Committee. They have contacted the owners of the five acres and told them of some of the ideas for the land, but they have not responded yet. The owners spoke about moving the house to the front of the lot and perhaps building another house on the front. They might be interested in selling the remaining acres to Arden. The Committee is sponsoring an annual clean-up of the Arden and Sherwood forest at 10 A. M. on April 21.

The Committee is getting prices on a 600 foot long metal fence between Sunset Farms and the Sherwood Forest. They are also planning to visit the residents of Sherwood Farms to let them know the restrictions on use of the forest. The developer of Sunset Farms liked the idea and will cooperate with our restrictions. The report accepted unanimously.

Safety Committee report by Thomas Stepleford. He reported that the Committee had invited members of the Safety Committees of Ardentown, Ardencroft, and interested residents of the three Ardens to a meeting to hear about developing a Town Watch program. Another meeting will be held on April 7 at which a representative of the New Castle County Police Department will outline a training program. This program of citizens going out at random hours to observe and report what they see has worked well in other communities.

A motion was made and approved unanimously that the Town Assembly approves of the Arden Safety Committee forming a Town Watch program in cooperation with Ardentown and Ardencroft.

Report of the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee presented by Marjorie vanGulick. The center continues to be used by various groups nearly
every night of the week. The Arden Activities of the Henry George School of Social Science has had three classes meeting weekly since Fall.

A major expenditure is anticipated from the maintenance funds of the BWVC committee. It will be necessary to replace the hot water supply system. The cost will be approximately $400.

The annual Yard Sale will be held in May under the co-ordinatorship of Dorsey Lebeis and Andrew Foote. The report accepted unanimously.

The Arden Playground Committee report was submitted by Beverly Barnett.

The committee had a work session and cleaned litter and broken glass from the greens. One swing was removed because the chain was worn and another removed because the chains had been padlocked together. All S-hooks were checked and tightened.

An accident occurred on January 18, 1979 when a swing seat separated from the S-hook and chain when a child was swinging. The accident probably was due to using the swing with the chain twisted. The committee requests all present tonight try to prevent children from twisting the chains.

During March the committee contractes with the Teen Gild to collect trash from the Sherwood and Arden Greens. The Committee has inspected the work and will meet with the Teen Gild to discuss continuing the arrangements.

Some residents present at the meeting did not feel that the Teen Gild should be paid for this work even though it was a very small amount. They should be encouraged to do something useful for the community without having to be reimbursed. The broken glass on all the greens is a safety problem that will have to be solved.

William Press reported that he takes walks through Arden in early mornings or late afternoons and many of the residents are very careless about the condition of their properties. The report of the Playground Committee was accepted unanimously.

Registration Committee report by Sarah Hamburger: There are 416 eligible voters as of March 26, 1979. The Registration Committee has held two block parties since January attended by about 40 people. The next party will April 22 at the Presses'.

Virginia Shaw has taken some of our old minutes books to Dover to be micro-filmed. She has purchased 5 storage boxes for minutes, etc. Some of these will be put in permanent storage in Dover. She is getting information concerning what and how long our records should be kept.

The Registration Committee was asked by the Advisory Committee to determine a definition of "an Arden Resident." Mary Morley searched town records back to 1943 and found that residency is defined in detail in a motion passed in September 1943. Basically a resident is a person, male or female above the age of 18 who shall have resided in the Village for a period of six consecutive months immediately preceding each referendum or meeting of the Town Assembly. It also has been defined as someone who owns a home in Arden, visits it and does not rent to someone else. Report accepted.
Mrs. Hamburger reported that there was a tie on two committees:
Safety Committee: Christopher Jackson and David Richardson
HWVC Committee Alan Burslem and Kimberly Landis. Ballots were circulated.

Carolyn Liberman requested that those interested sign up for the 80th Anniversary Committee.

Under new business Aaron Hamburger reported that the Town Assembly rental for 1979-80 season will remain at $300. The usual rental for the upper Gild Hall is $150 per night, but the Board of Directors decided that the Village of Arden will be charge 50% of whatever is the prevailing rental.

It was suggested perhaps Arden should purchase the negative of the film, "Arden, and Experimental Village."

A motion made by Kimberly Landis and seconded by Michael Curtis that "The Town Assembly is opposed to the recinding of Delaware's approval of the Equal Rights Amendment."

There was an opinion expressed that those not upholding the ERA should be notified of action to be taken. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Registration Committee reported the results of the elections:
Auditing Committee: Alton Dahl, William Bindloss, James Shinn
Budget Committee: William Press, Clyde Davis, David Richardson and William Bindloss will serve one year.
Civic Committee: Reese Davis, Joan Colgan, Gail Rinehart, and Eugene Shaw will serve one year.
Community Planning Committee: Cy Liberman, Patricia Press, Ethel Monfort.
Registration Committee: Virginia Shaw, Beatrice Jaffe, Carolyn Liberman
Safety Committee: Andrew Foote, Tony Colgan, Christopher Jackson
HWVC Committee: Yvonne King, June Kleban, Alan Burslem
Playground Committee: For two year term: Beverly Barnett, Frank Heymann, Linda Shinn. For one year term: Marianne Cinaglia, Russell McKinney
Town Assembly Chairman: Thomas Colgan
Advisory Committee Chairman: Hugh Roberts
Secretary of Town Assembly: Mary Morley
Treasurer of Town Assembly: Rae Gerstine

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morley