ARDEN TOWN ASSEMBLY  
Monday, September 25, 2000  
7:30 p.m., Gild Hall

Present:

Frank Akutowicz  
Lew Aumack  
Peggy Aumack  
Beverly Barnett  
Jennifer Borders  
Robin Bodo - Guest  
Alton Dahl  
John Dempsey  
Sandy Downing  
Carl Falco  
Joan Fitzgerald  
Jane Frantz  
Tom Frantz  
Barbara Henry  
Aaron Hamburger  
Heidi Hoegger  
Don Holcomb  
Dorothy Houes  
Rodney Jester  
Deborah Kenney  
June Kleban  
Sharon Kleban  
Lynda Kolski  
Eliot Levin  
Marjorie Mabrey  
Mary Marconi  
Albert Marks  
Betty O'Regan  
Denis O'Regan  
Jeffrey Politis  
Pam Politis  
Bill Press  
Pete Renzetti  
Gail Rinehart  
Hugh Roberts  
Ed Rohrbach  
Rick Rothrock  
Johanne Schroeder  
Sadie Sommerville  
Neal Ann Stephens *NV  
Leon Tanzer  
Mark Taylor  
Steven Threefoot  
Elizabeth Varley  
Mary Brent Whipple  
Joan Zylkin  
Mark Zylkin  
Cathy Cloutier - Guest  
Bob Ferguson - Guest  
Shari Phalan *NV  
Wayne Smith – Guest

1. **Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order by the town assembly chairperson, Bill Press. All residents were welcomed to the meeting and their participation encouraged.

2. **Correspondence:** Bill Press advised the receipt of a **Thank You** note from ACRA for the $700 contribution. Bill stated Rep. Wayne Smith was with us and Wayne had sent the Town a letter advising the approval of the $10,000 Bond Bill for the use of road repairs in Arden.

Wayne Smith congratulated the Town on our 100th year anniversary. Wayne Smith along with Senator Myrna Bair introduced Resolution #53 to the House and confirmed by the Senate acknowledging the history of Arden. Wayne presented to Bill Press, on behalf of the Town, with a framed copy of the Resolution acknowledging Arden’s Centennial anniversary. Wayne Smith introduced Cathy Cloutier. Cathy is running for 11th District State Senate. Myrna Bair decided not to run for another term.

3. **Announcements:** Peg Aumack reminded all of the Centennial Arts & Crafts Exhibit. November 4-12, 2000. There will be about 50-55 people exhibiting their work. Peg was also asking for volunteers to help set up.

Bill Press mentioned the Centennial Committee did a good job with Arden’s Birthday Bash and the community did enjoy it. Shortly after the Birthday Bash was the annual Arden Fair and it was bigger and better than ever. **Delaware Today** magazine (October’s issue) did a feature story on Arden. Try to get a copy and read it. It is unfortunate they failed to mention another important aspect of our community, which is our Town Assembly Meeting.

4. **Three Ardens Historic District:** Bev Barnett requested consideration to change the order of the Town Meeting to vote on the creation of the Three Ardens Historic District. Robin Bodo, Historian, State Office of Historic Preservation from Dover is here.

Request approved.
MOTION: (Bev Barnett) I move that this meeting support creation of a historic district that lists all three Ardens on the National Register. I ask the Trustees to support such a nomination.

Do I have a second?

Motion seconded.

Discussion: Arden is already listed on the National Register, therefore we would not see any changes. Having the three Ardens register as a group would cover a larger area. Harvey Road (from I-95 to Marsh Road) and Perkins Run will be in a Historic District. The three Ardens will continue to operate as separate entities.

While many in the meeting seemed enthusiastic about this, Mark Taylor shared his concern over the lack of attendance at the Centennial tribute to Henry George after the Arden Fair. In honor of Henry George Day with the dedication of the Henry George Bench on the Arden Green, less than 15 Ardenites were in attendance.

By adopting this change, no additional restrictions will be enforced, unless the project is federally funded. Individual leaseholders, can still make changes, additions, etc. Shari Phalan from Ardentown requested our support in adopting the Three Ardens Historic District.

Called to vote. Motion approved.

Announcements (cont.): During the last Advisory Committee meeting, it was recommended that we would like to ask everyone who speaks for the first time, to introduce yourself.

5. Agenda Clarification: The committee reports will be given in alphabetical order tonight.

6. Advisory: Alton Dahl reviewed the discussion on the Parking Policy for the Arden Green and Sherwood Green. Ordinance #1 states no parking on the Greens and Ordinance #4 states the Civic Committee has responsibility for adopting the rules. The Advisory Committee decided we would follow Ordinance #4. But, in this specific case Community Planning Committee organized, by consensus, the process for the parking. There seems to be some confusion tonight and we would like to ask Legislative Reference to review Ordinance #1 & #4.

We also ask the Craft Shop Corporation to report at tonight's meeting. The Advisory also moves that the Town Assembly makes this permanent and the Craft Shop Corp should report after Archives, since they are closely related.

Discussion: Why link Archives and the Craft Shop together? No need to, we can go in alphabetical order.

Motion seconded. (To include The Craft Shop Corporation report at every meeting.)

Motion approved.

Lew Aumack and Joan Zylkin had expressed concerns over items on the agenda needing additional time coming up on the floor too late and a quorum no longer present.

MOTION: (Alton Dahl) I suggested these items be moved out of alphabetical order and discussed first on the agenda.

Motion seconded.
Discussion: The Advisory Committee sets the order of the meeting and has always been reluctant to go out of order. All committee matters are reviewed at the Advisory meeting and this committee can decide which items should be moved up on the agenda.

MOTION TO AMEND: Motion to amend, adding the Advisory Committee will decide on items to be moved up on the agenda.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: Bill Press reviewed the role of the Advisory Committee. Objections from floor stating concerns with giving the Advisory Committee too much authority.

Motion tabled.

The Parking Policy was reviewed again with the role of Community Planning and Civic Committees.

7. Archives: Beginning in October, Archives will resume open hours the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month from 1-3 p.m.

Several programming ideas are being considered for the fall and winter. On Saturday, November 4th at 7:30, Archives and the BWVC Committee will co-sponsor a screening and discussion of the film "The Experimental Village". We also hope to have a presentation by Sally Hamburger on the results of the recent oral history project at some point later in the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Taylor
Archives Chairperson

8. Arden Craft Shop: The Arden Craft Shop Capital campaign has made tremendous progress this quarter. To date, more than $263,000 has been raised towards our goal of $600,000. This includes $130,000 from the State, $50,000 from the Welfare Foundation, $28,000 from the Village of Arden and more than $55,000 from individual contributors. In addition to these funds, we have also received a challenge grant from the Longwood Foundation for $125,000, contingent on raising $400,000 from outside sources. And as you can see we’re well on our way to making that goal.

With the formation of a nonprofit 501(c) 3 corporation, and the establishment of the necessary board of directors to run that corporation, a decision was made by the Arden Village Assembly in June to terminate the original acquisition committee. Two members of that original committee have decided no to participate as directors of the new corporation. We would like to thank Mary Marconi and Lynda Kolski for all their work over the course of the past year, and we welcome Janet Cosgrove of Ardentown and Phyllis Connor of Ardencroft as our new directors. Janet and Phyllis join Alton Dahl, Linda Eaton, Aaron Hamburger, Tom Wheeler and Mark Taylor as directors of the new formed Arden Craft Shop Museum, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Taylor

Discussion: Alton Dahl added the corporation board is working to see if it can be expanded to include Ardentown and Ardencroft. Lynda Kolski stated she is not opposed to including the other villages as long as they are involved in the equitable level of $25,000. All Arden residents are a part of the corporation.

Reports approved.
9. Trustees:

1. The Local School District and New Castle County Property taxes will be paid later this week. The total financial obligation for the Village this year is $202,705.72 on an assess value of $14,192,800. The assessed value on leasehold land remains constant at $3,955,400 while the assessed value on improvements rose $6,200. The municipal lands, our commons and forests, are not taxed because they are registered as municipal park land which is not taxable. While the assessed value was up a touch, the actual taxes to be paid is down as a result of a combination of factors. First is the school tax relief instituted last fall. Also, the county increased their level for the over 65 exemptions from $32,000 to $40,000 of assessed value. There was an increase in the number of over 65 exemptions claimed by our residents. Finally, we had less construction or improvements within the Village boundaries. As a result of these various issues, taxes for the year are $7,752.64 less than last year. With a total tax rate of 1.4285 per $100 of assessed value, down slightly (.055), the specific tax obligation breaks down as follows:

New Castle Property Taxes: $ 53,721.66
Local School District Taxes: $134,742.07
Rebates (sr. citizen and disability) $ 14,241.99

2. The United Water and Sprint contracts relating to the antenna on the water tower have been finalized and signed, at last! A reminder that we will be earning $350.00 per month in rental fees for the first year, with a 4% increase annual increase. The initial contract period is for 5 years, with the option to renew.

3. The tree survey requested of the Trustees and the Civic Committee at the June Town Meeting will be addressed under the Civic Committee report.

4. As you will recall the replacement of trees along the power lines taken down by Conectiv last year was delayed until this fall in order to minimize potential loss from any drought we may experience throughout the summer months. That activity will start up again in October. We will receive 66 trees from Conectiv. They will plant 50 and we will plant 16. Anyone interested in being part of that plan should contact Marianne at 475-3037.

5. The Buckingham Green lawsuit continues. Marianne is scheduled to be deposed in early October. After that there either will be settlement or court action. We are in the process of updating our documentation to make sure is reflects the current conditions in the forest.

6. We continue to work on the non-conforming status problem on the older multiple-
domicile lots relating to the mitigating variance. Work went fairly slowly over the summer due to vacation schedules of all parties involved in the effort. However, we have developed a few scenarios and are looking at specific actions that may or may not contribute to a solution that meets the needs of all parties.

7. The Home Occupation Ordinance has received final approval from the necessary departments in the County and from County Council and became part of the Unified Code on July 26th.

8. The quarterly financial report on the entrance table is to be considered part of the report.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Rinehart

Report approved.

10. Assessors Committee:

The official land rent assessment for next year was presented at the June Town Assembly meeting & is presented in full as part of the minutes now made available to you. In the event that no formal alternative proposal is put forth, the Board’s decision remains final.

Tonight’s report thus represents the final report of this year’s Board & is merely a brief reprise of our year’s coping with major events, issues & decisions, capped-off with a few observations from the Chair that may provide a minimal bridging to next year’s independently elected Board.

0 Perennial Issues dealt with this year & most likely to continue into 2001 are
- comparative evaluations of ‘community need’ vs ‘land-valuation’ taxation
- 1 vs. 2-level land size rates ; and
- ‘extra domicile’ land rent surcharges .

While these seem simple enough issues, partly due to their continuation over a decade or more, one ‘wag’ on the Board several years ago stated that we did not have “either the brains or the time to solve these problems” - fortunately one other member took issue with this position , claiming that we did have the time! The expertise problem is real, however, as evidenced by the last-minute debating of a new approach to the ‘domicile’ problem but which was aborted by emotional fears of possible illegalities opened-up by the “Scott case” in Ardencroft - a matter requiring interpretations by both a Trust attorney & a Georgist legal expert but for which we had not the time to pursue. Hopefully, future Boards will allow for & seek such expertise early in the year.

0 Emergent Issues concerning “home businesses”arose during the year but were not dealt with because a) the 3- Arden alternative to the New Castle County ordinance had not yet been passed by County Council and b) it was thought too vital an issue to be resolved without major Resident input. This issue would seem to be a must for next year.

0 Nominations for Assessors are made tonight. It is important for new Residents to realize that the Board of Assessors, by determining the basic funding for the Village, serves as one of the most crucial groups for election. It is for this reason that the election mechanism is drastically different from the elections for other officials. Referred to as the “proportional representation” system, its intent is to maximize the diversity of economic ideologies and expertise. To
enhance this grassroots diversity, the Board decided (5 maybe 6 years back, under the Chairmanship of Aaron Hamburger) to discontinue it’s own longstanding procedure of making bloc nominations & returning the responsibility to the Assembly - thank you, Aaron! We encourage you to give serious consideration to nominating those residents best reflecting your own SingleTax views (not excluding nominating yourself, of course!). Once finalized by the Registration Committee, the total list will be mailed to you with other Referendum forms with the opportunity to rank all nominees in order of your preference.

0 SO, let the games begin; tomorrow is a new day!

Submitted by
Lew Aumack

This is not a report we vote on, but would like to recognize Mr. Aumack’s hard work on this committee.

11. Registration Committee:

Nominations for Board of Assessors: Bev Barnett of the Registration Committee accepted the nominations. Nominated were – Steve Threeway, Carl Falco, Mary Marconi, Alton Dahl, Lynda Kolski, Tom Franz, Pete Renzetti, Danny Schweers; Al Marks, Elizabeth Varley, Ed Rohrbach, Barney King, Liz Resko, Ken Sutton.

Peg Aumack asked how can we get better acquainted with the people on the list that we do not know? A suggestion was made to publish names and telephone numbers in the Page, write up your beliefs, give a presentation. Lew Aumack suggested serious candidates should contact Mary Marconi (current secretary) for copies of the previous year’s minutes.

Bill Press indicated we would not be able to resolve this tonight and the Town Assembly should address this for next year’s election.

Bev Barnett read the Registration Committee Report:

Our current records show 413 adult residents of Arden, plus 87 children under the age of 18. The total number of eligible voters is 406.

The Registration Committee will mail ballots for the budget referendum and Board of Assessors election by October 23rd. Return ballots will be addressed to Cecilia Vore. The election will be held Wednesday, November 8th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Buzz Ware Village Center. Observers are welcome to watch the counting process.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Vore
Chairperson

Report approved.

12. Audit Committee: No report.
September 25, 2000 – Arden Town Assembly

13. Budget Committee:

- This is the projected and proposed budget for March 2001 to March 2002. The numbers at the top are projected “Income” and “Non-Budget Expenses”. The numbers under “Budget Expenses” are those that will go to referendum this October with any changes that we may make tonight.

- First I’d like to talk a little about the format then we can discuss specific questions you may have.

- The last column represents the final audited numbers for last year March 1999 to March 2000.

- The next column to the left is the projected & appropriated budget numbers for March 200 to March 2001- the year we’re in now. The only actual numbers in this column are for county and school taxes.

- The next column to the left of that is the new budget being proposed for March 2001 to March 2002. The attached notes are to clarify any changes from the previous year(s).

- Questions

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Marconi
Chairperson

Notes to FY 2001 - 2002 Budget Projection
Arden Town Assembly
September 2000

1. County and School Property Taxes - The Arden Board of Assessors forecast for county and school taxes.

2. Craft Shop - $25,000 approved and carried over from last year's budget.

3. Buzz Ware Village Center - This year’s budget (2001-2002) request for renovations is to be used for painting the outside of the building.

4. Playground Committee Equipment - The Playground Committee has received several requests for soccer goals for the Sherwood Green. This amount includes 2 soccer goals and all accessories.

5. Registration Committee - Registration’s budget amounts combine the budgets of the Registration Committee and the disbanded Welcome Hither Committee.

6. Donations - Fire Companies: Claymont Fire Co. $650, Talleyville Fire Co. $150 and Brandywine Hundred Fire Co. $150.
## ARDEN TOWN ASSEMBLY
### PROJECTED BUDGET (FY 2001-2002)

**September 25, 2000**

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### EXPENSES:

#### NON-BUDGET EXPENSES
- **Property Taxes:**
  - County: 1, 60,000 $56,700 $58,000
  - School: 164,000 146,006 148,657
  - Trustees Administration: 39,884 40,684 32,483
  - Craft Shop: 25,000 -
  - Centennial Celebration: -
  - State Grant for Roads to Civic Committee: 10,000 10,000 6,228
  - Delaware Municipal Street Aid - Roads: 20,000 20,000 14,951
  - **SUB-TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES:** $318,884 $273,390 $260,319

### BUDGET EXPENSES

- **Acquisition Committee/Craft Shop:**
  - 2,000 $2,000 $623.00
- **Acquisition Committee/Craft Shop Matching Funds:** 25,000
- **Archives:** 3,980 3,980 3,905
- **Board of Assessors:** 50 100 -
- **Buzz Ware Village Center:** 1,000 1,000 1,000
- **Buzz Ware Village - Renovation Project:** 12,500 6,000 6,000
- **Civic Committee:**
  - Roads: 15,000 15,000 21,179
  - Commons & Forests: 16,000 16,000 8,500
  - Trash Collection: 38,000 38,000 36,738
  - Special Clean - up: 2,000 2,000 1,021
  - Community Planning: 1,500 1,500 700
- **Urban Forestry Grant-Matching Funds:** 0 4,037
- **Arden Book Centennial Edition:** 6,486
- **Legislative Reference:** 300 300
- **Playground:** 1,750 1,700 1,523
- **Equipment:** 2,300 3,500 -
- **Registration:** 3,500 3,550 3,277
- **Safety - General:** 1,000 600 600
- **Salaries:**
  - Secretary: 5,750 5,531 4,884
  - Bookkeeping - Town: 2,320 2,273 2,004
- **Donations:**
  - ACRE: 1,000 700 700
  - Arden Page: 1,250 1,150 1,100
  - Arden Library: 450 450 450
  - Fire Companies: 950 950 950
- **Gild Hall Rental:** 800 800 700
- **Town Telephone:** 275 504 225
- **Town Watch Coordinator Fees:** 2,268 2,268 2,226
- **Centennial Celebration:** 1,000 8,000 1,685
- **Freemasonry File Cabinet - town secretary's records:** 1,000 -
- **Contingencies:** 2,000 2,000 467
- **SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES:** $121,743 $145,856 $117,086

### TOTAL EXPENSES

$440,627 $419,246 $377,405

Budget Questions/Comments:

Craft Shop - $25,000 carry over from last year. Approved in previous budget.
Other Income - increase from previous years. Past two years the actual income was higher than the budgeted amount. This budget is including additional revenues we can expect, i.e. antenna rental, $5,000 from New Castle County, and $10,000 for road repairs.
Buzz Ware - increase due to painting the outside of the building.
Playground - increase due to additional equipment.
Welcome Hither combined with Registration.
Safety - increase of $400 due to additional signage.
Reserves - this is not an account, it is the actual money left over at the end of the year.

June Kleban requested numbering the columns on future budgets. This would make it easier to refer to particular items. Mary agreed and said she would do that in the future.

Report approved.

14. BWVC: Betty O'Regan read the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee Report.

Budget Reconciliation (There are copies of this at the front table):
- This report does not show our savings acct. At the end of June 30, 2000, the balance was $8,733.60. Our checking account balance is in good standing and can absorb the projected deficit in the operating budget.
- Areas where my projected for 00-01 may be a little rocky are: 1) utilities - I added an additional amount to account for the high cost of fuel but this is just a "guesstimate"). 2) improvements from the operating budget - we may end up pulling more from this at the end of the year.
- The amount projected for the town assembly renovation budget increased from $6,000 to $12,500 for this particular year because we are anticipating painting the exterior of the building - a MUCH NEEDED PROJECT!

Current Projects:
- The shed is on order and will be delivered Oct. 3rd. Knotts Construction will be preparing the area on which the shed will be placed.
- The electrical work for track lighting in room 3 will begin tomorrow. We did receive a $750 grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts to be applied towards the renovations for improved space for art exhibits. I especially want to thank Mary Marconi for her time and effort in putting together the grant proposal. We have been invited to apply for grant money in the spring if we still have some other art related expenses.
- The common walls between rooms 3 and 4 are also being worked on to improve available display area.
- Repairs have been done to the portion of the roof where rotted timbers were found. The repairs were done by Pollock Construction. Bob is still working on some persistent ceiling damage in the boys' bathroom, a result of the roof damage done by firefighters during the last spring. It may take some time to ascertain where the problem is, but Bob is keeping up on it.
- There is still some work to be done over the entranceway, primarily maintenance; Pollock Construction is handling this also.
- The new flooring for room 3 has been delayed due to shipping scheduling but it is anticipated it will be in and the floor done by the end of October.
Vandalism reared its ugly head again this summer. One of our large trash containers was doused with gasoline and set on fire in the wee hours of a Saturday morning back in July. In addition to losing the container, damage was also done to the asphalt and will need to be repaired. Our concern for the safety of the BWVC had the committee discussing several options. It was decided that we would start with improving the lighting around the building by using already existing lighting which had been turned off in the past, and with more diligent in keeping up with replacing burned out bulbs.

On a more positive note, special thanks go out to the children in the ACRA program and to Ruth Bean who worked on cleaning up the flowerbeds in from of the BWVC this summer. If there is anyone willing to donate time to spread mulch on these beds, please give me a call.

Also our thanks to Jim Ficca who has, once again, donated his tuning talents to keep our piano in key.

Master Plan: We are resuming our meetings to discuss the ongoing master plan, which has been on hold for a number of months. Our committee has a renewed drive to once again address the issues of what type programming we want for the building, the necessary repairs and improvements to the building, and what types of outside funding we can approach for such needs. My personal philosophy regarding the building is "keep it simple and take care of what we already have". I recently came across a quote sited in "The Craftsman Magazine" and dating back to the early arts and crafts movement. It reads "The right kind of home does not drag out all that there is in a man to keep it going, nor is the care of it too heavy a burden upon a woman. It should be so planned that it meets, in the most straightforward manner, the actual requirements of those who live in it, and so furnished that the work of keeping it in order is reduced to a minimum." I especially liked this quote because I think it will help me, and hopefully others, in keeping focused on what we'd like to see happen with our community ctr.

Our next meeting for this topic will be Monday, Oct. 9th at 6:00 p.m. As always, our meetings are open to public attendance and we encourage those interested in attending to do so.

Events coming up at the BWVC

- We are very excited about the upcoming concert by Ernesto Tamayo on October 7th and workshop on October 8th. I want to thank Connee McKinney for sponsoring this benefit event for BWVC programming. Tickets are selling so get yours before the event is sold out! For further information about the concert contact Connee.
- Our monthly Coffee House will resume after a month's hiatus. The next one will be Friday, October 13th.
- November 4th is the opening for the art exhibit being sponsored by the Centennial Committee. An event with which the BWVC Committee is thrilled to be involved! The exhibit will run through November 12th.
- The Archives Committee has approached the BWVC about co-sponsoring an event at the BWVC. The movie made about Arden back in the '70's, "The Experimental Community", is scheduled to be shown, also on Nov. 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in room 1 or 2 (to be announced).
- The BWVC will also be sponsoring an afternoon/evening of person pampering on December 2nd between 3:00 and 8:00 p.m., with several therapists providing different types of massage. So before or after, the Arden dinner come help get rid of the pre-Christmas stresses with a few hours of relaxation.
- Ongoing events at the BWVC: Crafters session- 3rd Tuesday every month at 7:30 p.m. Coffee House singers on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Come join us!

Hope to see you at one (or all!) of these events at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,
Marguerite Archer
BWVC Committee Chair
September 25, 2000 – Arden Town Assembly

June Kleban wanted to bring to everyone’s attention the mural on the wall at BWVC. After the dedication, Zachary Theis, Drumlin Brooke, and Ben Riblett worked on adding the Arden Song around the picture. The lettering done by Drumlin was just wonderful. Be sure to compliment these young men when you see them!

Report approved.

The Buzz Ware Village Center depends on two sources of funding to meet annual obligations.
1. The BWVC Operating Budget, a separate account, controls the revenues and associated expenditures relating to the daily operation and maintenance of the Center.
2. The Town Assembly budget provides for administrative/programming expenses and for town authorized special needs.

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<th>DISBURSEMENTS</th>
<th>Actual 3/25/99 - 3/24/00</th>
<th>Projection 3/25/00 - 3/24/01</th>
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<tr>
<td>Admin/Program.</td>
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<td>Maintenance &amp; Supplies</td>
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TOWN ASSEMBLY BUDGET

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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
<td>$12,500.00</td>
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15. Community Planning Committee:

Cultural Future

The first session on Direct Democracy was held in July and attended by 32 people. After a brief panel discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of Arden’s direct democracy, there was a good group discussion with some interesting viewpoints expressed on direct democracy in Arden and whether or not it works. Many have expressed an interest in a follow-up session, which will be scheduled in early November.

The Land Assessment Study Group has met twice and has also prompted some interesting discussions and conversations. The group will continue to meet the second Monday of the month at BWVC with Elizabeth Varley as the facilitator for the group.

The Cultural Future work group is also planning a third topic for discussion in the next month or so. Watch the Page for details or contact Mary Marconi for more information.

Airplane Noise

The issue of airplane noise and how it impacts our quality of life, particularly on the Arden Green side of town, has been brought up. The FAA is currently doing a two-year review of the Philadelphia Airport, so now is a good time to address this. Anyone who is concerned about excessive airplane noise or who is interested in pursuing this matter should contact Ruth Panella.

Miller’s Road Intersection

On the table when you came in was a handout with the proposed change to the Miller’s Road/Walnut Lane/Lower Lane intersection. This is the design that the working group of residents living around the intersection, Safety, Civic and Community Planning developed to address safety issues in the intersection. The engineering firm of Tatum and Lee completed an engineering sketch plan of the proposed improvements and reviewed safety, engineering and drainage issues involved. Their recommendation was that this design would improve safety and drainage in the intersection as well as improving the visual appearance.

When we started out, our goal was to develop a plan that addressed the issues of cars speeding through the intersection and failing to stop at the stop signs, and improve the sight lines for oncoming traffic. There have also been problems with drainage in the intersection that neighbors requested also be addressed. We staged a trial run of this configuration last year and received good feedback from residents who used it on a regular basis. The consensus of the residents who live on the intersection after the trial run was that the revisions did slow traffic, even the school buses, one of the major
offenders of speeding there. The trash truck negotiated it with no problem, and a special test was done with Claymont Fire Company. They drove their largest fire truck and rescue truck through it from all directions with no problems.

The main features of the plan are:
- Removing asphalt and replacing with a peninsula of land to extend the point between Millers Road and Lower Lane.
- Removing asphalt and adding a bulb out of land on Millers before Lower Lane.
- Making the intersection a four way stop.
- Allowing two way traffic into Lower Lane with no access to Harvey Road. This would allow residents on Lower Lane to access their driveways from Arden. This might include adding a small bulb out of land at the bottom of Lower Lane to narrow the street slightly and reinforce no outlet to Harvey. Lower Lane would remain one way in at Harvey Road.
- Additional street signs on the peninsula to better define Millers Road.
- Adjustment of the drainage catch basin at the bottom of Millers Road. The engineers reported that part of the drainage problem was due to the fact that the existing basin was too small for the amount of water it was expected to handle, and in the wrong place, which makes it almost ineffective. This will help resolve some of the drainage problems.
- The concrete swales that cross Millers Road would remain in place for drainage.
- The curbing would be rolled as it is now.

We have gotten cost estimates from Downing, who does the road work in Arden, of $9,375. If we wanted to line the curbs with Belgian block, it would be an additional $1,900. Deborah Kenney, has been working with us on this, and believes the cost can be covered by the road money Arden receives from Wayne Smith, which has traditionally been about $10,000.

We met again with the residents on the intersection and the majority of the residents still believe this would be a positive change and an improvement for safety and drainage.

MOTION: Community Planning moves that the town approve the design and changes to the intersection.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: Preference was made for the granite-type curb. Purpose of the change is basic traffic calming, to help insure cars stop at the intersection and to help with drainage. The new area of landscaping (grass and possibly daylilies) will fall under the responsibility of the Civic Committee for maintaining. School buses and Claymont’s largest fire trucks were able to maneuver the intersection (concern was turning right on Millers Road from Lower Lane).

Called to vote. Motion approved.
NOTE:
THIS SKETCH DOES NOT REPRESENT A FINAL DESIGN. IT IS INTENDED FOR PRICING PURPOSES ONLY.

INTERSECTION OF WALNUT, MILLERS AND LOWER

Tatman & Lee Associates
A Division of URS Corporation
1200 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
Tel: 302.791.0700
Fax: 302.791.0708
Sherwood Green: Bev Barnett will report on our proposal for moving forward with the plan.

MOTION: (Bev Barnett) I move in order to provide shade to the Buzz Ware Village Center, and to generally enhance the attractiveness of the area that the Town Assembly authorize the Civic Committee to install the native plants on the Sherwood Green at site numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 11A and 11B. in accordance with the plan developed by the Community Planning Committee. See the Sherwood Green Planting Plan.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: Most of the comments/questions had been outlined in the above Sherwood Green Planting Plan. Bev stated some of the trees to be planted in site 8. Extra trees have become available from the Harvey Road restoration. Some leaseholders did not want the trees planted. Lew Aumack expressed concern over the appearance of a tree fence in site 11A. Security has been taken into account in the design around BWVC. Peg Aumack recently found a small container of laughing gas and as trees grow, children will come into these areas. We have had this problem in the past.

Called to vote. Motion approved.

Parking Proposal: At the June town meeting, we presented the parking proposal and were asked to make some changes to it. On the back of the handout with the Millers Road design is Community Planning’s recommendation for the Parking Proposal. Civic Committee has also prepared a recommendation for the Parking Proposal. There are several differences between the two. Because of some confusion and misunderstanding regarding who should address this, the following motion is made:

MOTION: Community Planning moves that the Parking Proposal be sent back to the original Parking Task Force to be revised as requested by the town meeting, and that the existing temporary policy remain in effect until a permanent policy is adopted by the town assembly. The Parking Task Force consisted of representatives from Community Planning, Civic, Safety, BWVC, and the Arden Club. We would also include a member from Legislative Reference to help with the proposal and how it meshes with any related ordinances.

Motion seconded.

Discussion: Alton Dahl and Mary Marconi reviewed Ordinance 1 and 4, which needs clarification from Legislative Reference. See Advisory Committee Report.

Motion to amend. (Bev Barnett)
15. Civic Committee:

We have recently received a letter from Wayne Smith's office confirming funding for street improvements in the Village of Arden. The $10,000 will go towards necessary road repairs noted earlier this year.

The Sherwood Green will be aerated and limed soon in keeping with maintenance of the Greens. Residents should be aware of the “dirt plugs” that will cover the Green – they are a normal result of this procedure.

Dead limbs of significant size were noted over one of the children’s playground areas on the Arden Green. We took the opportunity to visually inspect all of the trees on Arden and Sherwood Greens at that time for dead wood. Approx. 5-6 trees on Arden Green had sizable limbs removed, 1 tree on Sherwood and a dead branch over Milky Way footpath that constituted a hazard. We plan to inspect the trees on Commons annually for dead limbs as part of our ongoing maintenance.

A letter has been prepared for the residents and leaseholders of Arden to answer questions and provide information about the upcoming Tall Tree Survey. The trees that are to be considered in the survey are defined as tall, canopy trees, primarily towering hardwood trees – not the under story trees. The participation of leaseholders is voluntary and they will have approx. 3 weeks to decide and inform us of their choice. We have received a tree management grant for $2,000 from the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Part of the agreement provides an on-site contact during the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah A. Kenney
Chairperson

Discussion: Tall Tree Survey - A letter will be sent to all leaseholders with further information. Any deceased tree will be the responsibility of the leaseholder. This survey is voluntary because of concerns over personal liability.

The Parking Policy by the Civic Committee was available on the front table.

Alton Dahl suggested since Legislative Reference was not going to be able to review Ordinances 1 and 4 and since we lost the quorum, this policy could be brought up again at January’s meeting.

Report approved.

16. Legislative Reference: No report.

17. Playground Committee: During the past three months, the required Playground inspections were conducted, and all equipment is in safe conditions. Any needed repairs were made, and the wood chips under the equipment have been maintained to cushion falling off of the swings, climbers, and slides.

The Committee has accepted the assignment of an individual who must perform Community Service, and he will be repainting the playground equipment. The Committee will provide all equipment and material for the project. It is anticipated that it will take 30 hours to complete the repainting.
The Committee has requested a Budget Item for $2,300 for purchasing and installing two soccer goals, and these will be installed on the Sherwood Green near the baseball diamond. The placement will enable wither a soccer game or a baseball game to be played, utilizing basically the same playing field.

Submitted by,
Larry C. Walker
Chairman

Report approved.

17. Safety Committee: No report.

The O'Regan's mailbox was blown up again. A white car was seen leaving the area.

Bev Barnett reported I-95 North and South will be reopened in a few weeks. 1-1/2 years ago the Town Assembly asked the Safety Committee to investigate a way of monitoring the traffic (speeding) and the money collected from the fines would pay for this service. Bev requested an update. Update was unavailable - Tim Colgan, chair, was out of town.

Bill Press read Tim Colgan's report from the Advisory Committee meeting held Sept. 5th.

Tim Colgan will not be at the meeting but is still working with the State Police on patrolling Harvey Road with fines being returned to the Town. Tim will report at January's meeting.

18. Old Business:

Lynda Kolski advised the Centennial Committee has sweatshirts and shirts available for sale.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Fitzgerald
Town Secretary
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

140th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF AREN AND WISHING ITS CITIZENS A MOST UTOPIAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

WHEREAS, in 1900 a 40-year-old sculptor and businessman named Frank Stevens obtained the financing to purchase a 162 acre farm north of Wilmington. and

WHEREAS, Frank Stevens believed in a set of economic and social principles based on the single-tax theory, put forth by Henry George, and

WHEREAS, Henry George did not believe in the private ownership of land, but rather a communal holding where rent is charged and the profits of which go to common use, shared equally, in the sweat and fruits of labor, and

WHEREAS, Stevens drew up a deed of trust that established this 162 acre farm as the Village of Arden, a single tax enclave where the land would be held in trust by three trustees who would grant 99-year leases to residents. and

WHEREAS, Architect Will Price designed the plan for Arden, devoting nearly half of the land to greens, forests, paths and roads with house lots and roads to follow the contours of the land rather than a draftsman's grid, and

WHEREAS, with time, artisans who were poets and playwrights, actors and painters, sculptors and metal-smiths, espousing various ideologies across the political spectrum, came to put down roots in Arden, and

WHEREAS, when the residents were not busy silversmithing or woodworking, making fine linens or sconces, they would often gather in the communal open-air theater and perform Shakespearean plays, or cool off in the swimming hole in Naamans Creek, and.

WHEREAS, Arden's ever-growing "Utopian" society began to gain the attention of the rich and famous, such as writer Upton Sinclair who began by living in a compound of tents until he built a two-story cottage, and shoppers such as screenstars Lillian and Dorothy Gish, as well as members of the DuPont family, and who came to purchase the high quality crafts the residents produced, and

WHEREAS, when the Great Depression swept across this country almost all "Utopian" societies broke apart, but Ardenites pulled together and through bartering and communal living, valuing cooperation above competition they keep Arden alive, and

WHEREAS, as the years passed more land was purchased, expanding the village as well as the diversity of residents, and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950's Arden planners actively recruited African Americans to move to their village, resulting in an integration of their grammar school thus becoming one of the first localities in Delaware to integrate voluntarily, and

WHEREAS, the remoteness of Arden began to diminish in the early sixties with the growth of the DuPont Company and suburban sprawl, however its common lands, woods and communal spirit kept it an oasis from the rest of society, and

WHEREAS, today, many of the descendents of the founding residents of Arden still reside in this last utopian society, and

WHEREAS, from folk dancing to pot luck dinners at the Gild Hall, from town fairs to open air performances, the spirit of Arden as inspired by Frank Stevens is still alive and well today.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 140th General Assembly, the Senate concurring therein, hereby commemorates the Town of Arden on the 100th Anniversary of its establishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitably prepared copy of this resolution be presented at the Centennial Celebration of the Town of Arden.
Three Ardens Historic District

"I move that this meeting support creation of a historic district that lists all three Ardens on the National Register. I ask the Trustees to support such a nomination."

Beverly A. Barnett, Landmark Committee

If this motion is passed the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will send a letter to the Trustees, Directors and land owners in the New Castle County island asking for their non-objection to becoming part of the Three Ardens historic district. Ardentown and Ardencroft passed this motion at their September Town Meetings.

On October 26 in the Gild Hall, the State Historic Preservation Review Board will convene a day-long review of the nomination, ending with a vote to approve or disapprove.

Importance of nomination:

1. The Historic District as now drawn includes all land area within the 3 villages. The 7 properties in the New Castle County island are included as non-contributing properties. The SHPO will ask all land owners for non-objection. To stop the nomination 51% of the owners of record, according to the tax roles, must object in writing with a notarized statement sent to SHPO.

2. The focus is on culture, not just physical buildings or landscape. We seek recognition as a traditional cultural property (TCP). We are the first culture that is not an ethnic minority to seek TCP recognition. Historians are watching to learn how to do it. For instance, New York City has neighborhoods that historians do not know how to document in this manner.

3. Unless we abandon our founding principles. Listing lasts. SHPO staff advises that if historic listing works to our advantage, use it. If it does not, ignore it.

Advantages continuing since 1996 when idea first brought to Town Meetings:

1. Honor. Status recognizes our contribution to American history.

2. Knowledge. Increased self-awareness results from developing nomination.

3. Stronger protection for our land. For instance, this nomination documents how our forests are a resource to us. Therefore, Buckingham Green run-off, dams on Perkins Run, and larger electrical derricks would degrade the national patrimony.

4. Federal funding. More protection from impact of federal action though limited to section 106 guarantee of local notification and voice. For instance, all property owners would be notified before DelDOT could use in full its 60-foot Harvey Road right-of-way between Arden and I-95.

5. State funding. If the new district is approved, all property owners could apply. Arden leaseholders can now apply. For instance, SHPO approved money for bank stabilization of an Arden house on St. Martins Lane directly threatened by erosion from storm water run-off in Naamans Creek.

6. Emergency funding. Can use FEMA money to get a more 'historically sensitive' restoration.
Potential advantages:

1. Delaware legislature has before it a tax incentive to property owners for rehabilitating structures that contribute to any historic district. May not pass this autumn, but it will be reintroduced next year by Preservation Delaware. Priority will be for saving the Delaware structures most at risk, though theoretically any building in this district would be eligible.

2. Congress has before it a Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) which would funnel federal money through the state preservation offices. In Delaware tens of thousands of dollars could become available for repairs to the village center, Gild Hall, bank stabilization, etc.

Possible disadvantages, depending on an individual's point of view:

1. Increased property values are possible. If, because of historic designation, people value our community more, property values may rise proportionately more than similar properties elsewhere.

2. The nomination will be documented in the Federal Register, and available in the National Archives. Some people feel constrained by having the national government know this much about them.

3. Tourism. We've asked that our location not be published. However, anyone who reads the Federal Register and uses the National Archives can find us on a Delaware map. We will continue to welcome Hither those read about us and want to know more.

4. If a leaseholder seeks New Castle County protection under their historic zoning overlay, another level of government could be inserted into reviewing what a leaseholder does to a building.

5. If a leaseholder uses available federal money, that leaseholder must comply with the Secretary of Interior's standards for treatment of historic properties. Projects will be reviewed by the SHPO to insure the proposed work won't harm the historic features that make the property eligible.

This summer Harry Themal of Ardentown assisted the State Historic Preservation Office team, in compiling the heart of the nomination — the statement of significance, Section 8. Updated drafts of that 35-page report are available for review in the Arden Library and Arden Archives. Thus far, approximately 20 residents have read, commented upon, and improved it.

* In 1973, Cy Liberman reported to a national planning conference that, "One real estate broker estimated that the same house and grounds in Arden brings 20 percent more than it does outside Arden, despite the fact the homeowner will not own the land, and will pay land rent that is bound to exceed county and school taxes..."
## Village of Arden
Receipts and Bank Balances March 25, 2000 to August 31, 2000

### Balance in Bank March 25, 2000

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<td>Past Fiscal Year(s)</td>
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<td>New Investments</td>
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### NOTE: Investment Position

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Signatures:

Trustee: [Signature]

Admin. Assist.: [Signature]
### Village of Arden - Expenditures Against Budget March 25, 2000 to August 31, 2000

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<th>Committees:</th>
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<th>Expenditures Since Last Report</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Less Accrued Taxes</td>
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Sherwood Green Planting Plan

This summer a review* was conducted of the comprehensive, long-range planting plan for the Sherwood Green created 1997-99 using Delaware Urban Forestry funds. The outcome is a recommendation to proceed with planting site numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 11A and 11B. Placed on hold are those sites that could disrupt the community balance of open space or make security surveillance difficult. We believe that proceeding in this manner will:

1. provide shade to the playground and BWVC
2. enhance the attractiveness of the area
3. make possible commemorative plantings

Individuals and groups are encouraged to install plantings that celebrate life’s events. This planting of individual specimen trees and shrubs would be first along The Highway near the Gild Hall parking lot (site 11A), and as community interest is expressed, near the intersection of Sherwood Road and Sunset Lane (site 11B).

Costs of implementation and maintenance have been identified, as well as potential sources of grant funding.

Installation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has included in its budget installation of planting sites 5, 7, and 8 worth approximately $9-10,000. Site 6 installation costs are about $600, and eight other potential funding sources have been identified for this location.

Maintenance. If this motion is passed, the Arden Civic Committee would maintain the new planting sites at an approximate cost of $800 per year. The cost to Arden leaseholders over time is an increase in land rent per $1000 of $1 50-3 90 per year. Volunteer involvement would bring down the cost to leaseholders.

The plan is to begin slowly with a few plants this fall at sites 7 and 11A, and proceed cautiously to shade the Tot Lot and building next spring by planting sites 7 and 8. Sites 5 and 6 would be planted in autumn 2001, after the building is painted. It may be many years before we have shade, and decades until the trees mature. By then, when the existing trees will have died, the benefits of shade from the new trees will continue.

Beverly Barnett, on behalf of
Civic Committee and Community Planning Committee

* Participating in the review were community residents, neighbors of Sherwood Green, Arden Community Planning Committee, Civic Committee, Playground Committee, Buzz Ware Village Center Committee and the ACRA Board of Directors
"In order to provide shade to the Village Center and Tot Lot, and to generally enhance the visual appeal of the area, I move that the Town Meeting authorize the Civic Committee to install native plants on the Sherwood Green at site numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 11A and 11B in accordance with the plan developed by the Community Planning Committee."
Parking Policy for the Greens
Recommended by Community Planning

1. No parking is permitted on the Greens when there is available paved parking spaces or space on nearby leasehold rights-of-way.

2. To reduce the need for parking spaces, The Arden Club and the Buzz Ware Village Center should encourage residents of the Ardens to walk to events that they are sponsoring. All participants at events should be encouraged to car pool.

3. For Sherwood Green:
   a) The entrance at the east corner (on The Highway) will be closed with a removable chain and a sign that states “No Vehicles – Park on Paved Lots”.
   b) Boulders will be placed to block all other access routes to Sherwood Green.
   c) At the basketball court a sign will be posted indicating parking for the court is in front of Buzz Ware Village Center.
   d) During large events at either the Gild Hall or Buzz Ware Village Center, managed parking on the Green will be permitted after all paved areas are filled and with appropriate permission from the Civic Committee. Management of parking, including removal and replacement of the chain, will be the responsibility of the group organizing the event.

4. For the Arden Green:
   a) Parking will be on leasehold rights-of-way around the Green.
   b) During unusually large events, such as the Arden Fair and Shakespeare performances, when sufficient parking is not available on nearby rights-of-way, managed parking will be allowed on the Arden Green with appropriate permission from Civic Committee. Management of parking is the responsibility of the event organizer.

5. Parking should occur only when the soil is dry enough to avoid damage. The event organizer is responsible for repair of any damage to the Greens resulting from parking.