

## **Community Planning Committee – Village of Arden**

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Present: Mark Wood, Ron Meick, Grace Ressler, Rick Ferrell

Not Present: Denise Nordheimer

Visitors: Carol DiGiovani, Debbie Ricard, Jean Covert, Mike Oates

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Topics Discussed:

Minutes from 11/21/2018 were approved

### **Election of a new Secretary**

Rick Ferrell is the new Secretary

### **Membership of committee and nominations for March election**

- o Ron Meick – is considering another term
- o Grace Ressler – is interested in joining the committee
- o Denise Nordheimer – will verify Denise’s interest by the next meeting
- o Will need at least 3 other names

### **Transformational sub-committee Grace Ressler ,**

#### **REPORT**

Grace reported briefly by way of introducing the topics of tonight’s presenters, Debbie , discussing a potential collaborative effort with the Government Information Center for our Website redevelopment project, and Mike Oates and Jean Covert representing 302 Stories concerning a video project (Details to follow below).

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Government Information Center**

Debbie provided a comprehensive overview of the collaborative benefits of utilizing municipal web services, provided by the Government Information. Their “phased” services include Discovery, Design, Launch, and Maintenance components. For more details and examples of their collaborative work visit, <https://gic.delaware.gov>

Next step: Web forum seeking community input to discuss content and collaboration for Wednesday, 2-23-19 at 7PM at the Buzz.

##### **302 Stories**

Presenters, Mike and Jean provided an overview of two potential grant funding sources provided by Delaware Humanities. This work, if undertaken, could be another part of the Arden Website redevelopment project.

Both programs have “dollar-for-dollar” matching requirements, and the matching funds need to be identified and committed before making the application.

1. The **Opportunity Grant** can be applied for on a rolling basis (no filing deadlines) throughout the year. The maximum grant is \$3,000. When combined with the matching funds this grant has the potential to fund a \$6,000 project. Projects for this grant are limited to:
  - a. Community Oral Histories
  - b. Research on Social and local community issues
  - c. Preliminary research for larger documentary projects
  - d. Presentations by academic scholars
  - e. Short video segments providing information on community history

The ensuing discussion about this opportunity focused on the potential use for a video deliverable, the Town Website, and the interesting oral contributors that could participate in this project

Next steps would be pursued AFTER the previously mentioned Website forum was held. Ideally the website discussion would help target/inform the narrative for a grant application.

2. The **DH Regular Grant** focusing on Delaware history, culture and social issues. The maximum grant is \$15,000. When combined with the matching funds this grant has the potential to fund a \$30,000 project. Grant applications are accepted twice per year (April 15 and Oct 15).

It was discussed that this grant could be pursued if there is consensus for a defined project, ideally emanating from the Opportunity Grant endeavor.

### **Vacant houses 2017-18**

Upon reviewing houses believed to be vacant for at least one year, the Committee decided to send ‘NOTICE’ letters to the 5 lots identified. (it was discussed that if any of notices were sent in error the leaseholder can apply for a waiver):

**Short Term Rentals** – Committee discussed carrying this forward as an agenda item as more research is undertaken as to how other communities are handling the issue. The initial thoughts are that if a policy were to be developed such policy would discourage/prohibit absentee leaseholders from such practice, but allow “leaseholder occupier” short-term rentals.

**Public Gathering for Town Meeting Safety** - Not yet scheduled. Mark to confer with Brook

**Up-date Community Garden** – No update

**Up-date Memorial Gardens** – No update

**Adjournment** - 8:30 PM