

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 6 October 2004

Present: David Gerbec, Deborah Kenney, Sue Rothrock, Jacqi Tanzer, Ann Schmittinger and Danny Schweers, Secretary. *Absent:* Lou Bean.

Sue Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

REPLACEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - New committee members David Gerbec and Ann Schmittinger were introduced. They will fulfill the terms of outgoing members Rick Grier-Reynolds and Ken Sutton, both through March, 2006.

SHERWOOD FOREST FENCING - Sue Rothrock reports that Sue Mochelle, Delaware State Trails, says that state uses bright orange stakes and bird houses at some boundaries rather than fences. Sue notes that we have used bird houses, but half of those disappeared and have not been effective. Solid wood fences are effective. Temporary fences, Sue Rothrock now believes, is not effective. Steve Threefoot wants Civic Committee to work with Community Planning Committee to apply for grants for fencing.

SIGNS - Sue Rothrock has ordered new signs for forests and commons. Also inquired about a wooden sign over new five acres. Jacqi will call Bob Pollock about building a trash-can corral for the Buzz Ware Village Center that will also support a sign for the Sherwood Green.

YEWS - Jacqi says there are curbstones all along street, so putting parking there is not good.

DRAINAGE AT CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM - No word yet about State funding of drainage. Usually we get a letter in August.

DYING OAK NEAR MEADOW LANE - Jacqi reports that tree is too big for Jeff to deal with.

SEA OATS AT SHERWOOD GREEN - Jacqi has found someone ready and able to do the work to cut them now and then remove them later. These natives are aggressively invasive plants.

HOUES PROPERTY - A drainage problem since 1962. There is a spring on the Houes property, which flows generously after it rains, creating a swampy condition. We are now trying to do something. Deborah Kenney reviewed history of properties, including the fact that there are two drain pipes under Marsh Road taking water from across the street into Sherwood Forest, specifically the newly acquired five acres. Deborah got a bid from Downing Construction to take water under the fire lane/road but not for storm drain. \$5,575 for drain, catch basin, pipe, guttering, stores. Sue recommends we extend them the contract, to be paid out of state maintenance fund. Recommendation was approved by the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

STORM DAMAGE - Broadbents had another tree fall, this time across their driveway, cutting power to their house. Total damage to Village from storm is

\$1,900 damage so far, with two trees to look at in Sherwood Forest. We might be reimbursed by the state for this damage. Liz Broadbent has requested that two trees be cut down. Sue Rothrock suggested she call urban forester, who said trees were well rooted, though some old limbs could be removed. Since they aren't diseased, Sue is not inclined to cut them down. Sue suggests all members look at the situation. Two trees were cut last year that looked like they might fall.

FOREST CLOSURE - Once a year the Civic Committee makes a motion at the Arden Town Assembly to close the woods from dusk to dawn. This gives us the right to call the police if people are in there at night. Committee agrees to make the motion at the next town meeting.

LEAF REMOVAL - Sue Rothrock proposes sending out a Leaf Removal Letter to all the leaseholds in Arden. Every year we spend as much as \$5,000 to remove leaves. In Ardentown, they only clean up the public greens, not around the leaseholds. Sue asks if we want to the same, to clear only pathways and greens. Committee agrees, to say something like, "Leaseholders are responsible for keeping clear the rights-of-way adjacent to their property. Please do not blow your leaves into the street; the Village does not clear them away. Instead, bag them and set them out to be collected, or compost them!" Sue will work on wording.

TRASH PICK-UP - We do special trash pickup every year, \$1,700 last year. Sue asks members to consider continuing this service in light of recent sensitivity to taxes. Committee will bring this up at next Town Meeting, to get a sense of the community.

STORM RUNOFF MONITORING - We file a report every year, as well as a stream watch. Water is collected from Naaman's Creek and Perkins Run and tested for oxygen and other items. Deborah offers to do this with Marianne Cinaglia, who is already active.

VOUCHERS - New committee members were introduced to the voucher system for payment of bills, in which a voucher, signed by two committee members, one of whom must be the chair, is submitted to Elizabeth Varley for payment.

GRANTS - Ann Schmittinger agreed to work with others on grants, including Bev Barnett on a grant to secure funding for Sherwood Forest.

PLANTS AVAILABLE - We have seedlings available of the Meta-Sequoia and redbuds. Cherry trees should be planted along Cherry Lane. Some dogwoods need to be replaced, but state is not recommending replacing with natives, which are so prone to disease.

NEXT MEETING - Will be November 3, the first Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny N. Schweers, Secretary, Village of Arden