

Arden Civic Committee Agenda**Wednesday, June 23, 2021****7:30 p.m. via Zoom Meeting****Call to Order****Approval of May 26, 2021 Minutes****Categories**

- Administrative
 - Village Employee for Miscellaneous Work
 - Contracts and Town Assembly
 - Zoom vs. The Buzz
- Roads
 - Painting
 - Potholes and Sinkhole
 - Harvey & Marsh Project
 - Priorities
- Waste Management Contract
 - Yard Waste Commingling
 - Mt. Cuba Center Composting Tour
- Projects / Grants
 - Water Management: Joint Meeting
- Permits / Reservations
 - T-Mobile Tower Access/Construction
 - Calendar
- Maintenance Projects (Status)
 - Signs
 - Trash Can Holders
 - Path Barrier Removal
 - Bench
- Tree Work
 - Village Green Elm
 - Stile Path Tree
- Greens
 - Branch Removal
 - Completed / Planned / Prospective
- Seasonal Contracts
- Miscellaneous
 - Bamboo Encroachment

Zoom Meeting Information

Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/480638694?pwd=SEE5dEZmN09jaFNQeUZCSE1OWIFsUT09>

Meeting ID: 480 638 694

Password: 537947

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,480638694# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,480638694# US (New York)

This information is also online
at www.arden.delaware.gov on
the Civic Page.

Other Old Business**New Business****Adjourn**

Attendance: Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, Ed Rohrbach, Rick Farrell.

Absent: Mark Wood.

Call to Order: Steve called meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: May 2021 minutes approved as presented.

Categories

- Administrative
 - Village Employee for Miscellaneous Work

Dave Claney expressed concern if he has insurance coverage when working for Forest Committee and/or Civic Committee. Skip Bailey, Town Treasurer, assures Civic Committee that insurance is not a problem because he is an employee.
 - Contracts and Town Assembly

The only Civic Committee contract that requires approval from the Town Assembly is the Waste Management Contract because of its duration of three years; it's a large part of budget and effects all three Ardens.
 - Zoom vs. The Buzz

May be in person meeting in September.
Steve will check to see if Buzz has strong Wi-Fi for a possible Hybrid meeting.
- Roads
 - Painting, Potholes and Sinkhole

Work was delayed because it was hard to locate some materials and/or the cost changed. Rescheduled painting, pothole and swale repairs for this week. Painting is scheduled first. The paint is a quick-dry type that within minutes of application a car can drive over. (This was one of the materials that was hard to locate and contributed to delaying the work.)

Steve adds that MSA funding can be carried over and will not lose the funding if it is not used within budget period, and it has nothing to do with the amount of money to be received this year. Rick is going to meet with them to review the walk-through they did for future work and prioritize the long view plan. Steve would like to join them.

- Harvey & Marsh Project

For clarification, Civic Committee is not involved with this project. It is mainly Safety Committee, Advisory Committee and the Officers project.

- Priorities

- Waste Management Contract

- Yard Waste Commingling

Civic received some complaints about commingling regular trash and recyclables into the same trash truck. Steve has been informed by Jeff that his understanding was that, periodically, they will do that when it suits their overall operations (as long as they follow the state guidelines and landfill guidelines for having an overall percentage yard waste in the landfills). The three Villages agreed to do that periodically. Steve placed a call to the state to find out what the state policy was, but he has not received a return call as of yet. The contract does not stipulate frequency or where they are going to dispose of the yard waste, or whether or not it can be comingled.

- Mt. Cuba Center Composting Tour

Representatives of the three Ardens are going to Mt. Cuba to look at their composting operations and see if it is feasible for the three communities to do their own yard waste.

Composting requires a space and a location that people can drive up to and that does not interfere with the neighbors.

Alternatives to Waste Management.

Steve will see if the other Arden communities are interested in exploring an alternative. They are a little cheaper because they own their landfill.

Public landfills are very expensive. It's a large company and the economy of scale they work on is going to make it difficult to find better pricing.

If inflation becomes a factor, then 3% or CPI (the lesser of) could allow the Village to challenge their 3% escalation. The landfill that is closest to Arden is filling up, which means they will have to truck it to a farther landfill. It is unlikely that the CPI will be lower than the 3%. Steve read part of the contract that gives WM the right to renegotiate contract based on market conditions. However, it is believed that probably all companies have this provision because they are all facing the same volatility in the same cost structures.

When the time comes to renew contract in September, Rick will review and possibly reword contract.

- Projects / Grants

- Water Management: Joint Meeting

- A special public meeting in early September (right after Arden Fair) would be scheduled to present their draft report with Q & A following.

- A final report will be presented at the next town assembly (Sept 2021 or Jan 2022). Make sure all committees are involved.

- Permits / Reservations

- T-Mobile Tower Access/Construction

- Non objection letter was signed off on to change their equipment on the tower.

- Calendar

The permit forms to request use of the Field Theater and the Greens need clarification as to charges, parking, deposits. Permit should reflect how little parking is available.

A separate permit form will be needed for the Indian Circle.

Sherwood Green should be separate from the parking area.

Fires - Ordinance#4 Open fires shall not be permitted on the Greens, except in places and times designated by Civic or Forest by permit written or electronic, etc. Carol Larson thinks a raised fire pit should be allowed as long as it is safe and does no damage to the area.

- Maintenance Projects (Status)

- Signs

Mark said he will handle it and see about volunteers.

- Trash Can Holders

Not heard from Harold on status.

- Path Barrier Removal

- Bench painting is not under Civic's jurisdiction, according to the Playground Committee. It was pointed out by Ed that over the years judications goes back and forth between the two committees. Either way, Civic Committee reserves the right to install benches in areas that are not part of playground area (like the soldier Memorial that Albert installed when he was Chair of Civic).

- Tree Work

- Village Green Elm

Ron has been notified and expects it to happen within days. Ed agreed to notify Carol if he does not do it.

- Stile Path Tree

Dave has been notified to remove logs and twigs.

- Greens

- Branch Removal

- Completed / Planned / Prospective

- Seasonal Contracts

- Miscellaneous

- One Thousand Hands check could not be deposited because it was made payable to Civic Committee, which is not an entity that has an account. Steve will contact them.

- Bamboo Encroachment

The Club House Path, runs between two neighbors' leaseholds, in which bamboo is shooting up on both leaseholds and path causing damage.

The neighbors signed a waiver without the consent and signature of Civic Committee, which is responsible for path as defined in the town plan. The leaseholds are not continuous and, therefore, the waiver is not valid. The path needs to be restored. The problem is that to meet New Castle County Ordinance #17007 regulating bamboo is very expensive (thousands of dollars). Civic decided to put on hold for now. In the meantime, explore material to repave path. Not all paths have heavy traffic like the Club House Path which is heavily used due to its path connects to the Gild Hall.

- Soldiers and Sailors Memorial and Walt Whitman Memorial – Steve spoke to Lisa Mullinax, Chair of Archive Committee, to request the Arden craft and museum to partner with Civic Committee to recognize these memorials with an appropriate plaque or helping to design a

plaque. Steve will attend Archive Committee's next meeting on July 14th. Carol would love to know if a QR code could be considered in which information about the memorial can be read on individuals' cell phones.

Other Old Business

New Business

Adjourn 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Resko,
Village Secretary