

Civic Notes 9/10/02 8:10 pm - 9:30pm

Approval of minutes

Old business:

I have had many people say thank you to me about the road work at both Millers & Marsh and Orleans Road. This includes Ruth Panella who had concerns about it at the last meeting. We missed the repair on the sewer cover at Orleans and The Highway where we had two complaints, so I added that into our repairs.

The garbage truck struck the bridge on Meadow Lane again on August 9th. The neighbors in that area have had some comments on the problem. Rick Rothrock looked at it and said that the bridge at that end should be set back 8-10 inches because of the curve in the road. He also said that the last repair was not pinned to the bridge structure. Also the mortar mix was too "rich" so that the stones all broke as one piece instead of a couple of stones coming loose. Bev Barnett was there and brought up some of the neighbors ideas: moving the bridge back, bringing the garbage out to the end of the street or paying extra to have them walk back the lane. She also asked that the town replace the "checker block" that was removed when the new drainage was done by the bridge. She said that the gravel was rutting out. We decided to add more gravel because of settling for now.

We will distribute the leaf removal policies in October. The cost of removing leaves was \$5300 last year. I would like to propose that we only remove leaves on the Greens because we pay for leaf removal on every inch of right of way whether the leaseholder has cleaned up their leaves or not. We can hire someone independently to remove leaves from the drainage grates. This should actually be done in the late spring after the trees flower and possibly twice in the fall. Discussion followed and we will see how this new policy works. We also need to do routine inspections of our drainage system for New Castle County. If the drains are bad we can hire someone to clean them.

Mary Marconi has been investigating the old swim hole bridge. She has been talking to people at DENREC about repairing the structure. They gave her the names of three companies that do this type of work. It will also need railings that are up to code. The bridge has historical significance and is part of our path system so this may help us with the permission and also may help us to get a grant. Half of the bridge belongs to Ardentown so Page Dwyer, as head of civic, will get involved also.

We have approx \$700 in our path grant fund. I would like to propose that we put this towards restoring Patro's path . The last time the path was done, the stones were lifted and then laid back on the dirt. They are now almost totally covered with mud and grass. The stones should be lifted, a four to six inch gravel base put down, then the cracks between the stones should be filled with stone dust. This will discourage the growth of grass among the stones. Discussion followed with the decision that this is an important path and should be done the right way. We should get a design and then get a price. We should plan on doing

Rick Reynolds has been talking to Alton and Aaron about the drainage on the "beer garden" area . The bid that we received is about \$6000. They are hoping to start it at the end of October. There is a N.C.C. meeting for storm water discharge on Wed. 18th at 9:30 am.

New business:

The gardener's guild and the civic committee will host a presentation including a slide show by botanist Janet Ebert and biologist Jim White. They will discuss their revealing survey of plants and animals in the Sherwood Forest, including the rare carnivorous harvester butterfly. This will be presented after the community supper on Saturday, November 2nd at 7:15 PM in the upper Guild Hall. Refreshments will be served. I would like to get civic committees approval for donating money towards refreshments. We also have a chance to get another grant to do the same survey in the Arden Woods. Our volunteer coordinator for Sherwood Forest was Bev Barnett. Jane Frantz has volunteered to be the coordinator for the Arden Woods survey under Bev's guidance. They would like the civic committee's approval to go ahead with the grant proposal. Everyone approved.

We had a discussion at the last meeting about our tree service. Aaron contacted Strobert, but once again, nothing was done. The work that he did not finish has been around since Deborah was chairperson of civic. Deborah, Gail, Walter, and myself have called him numerous times over the past two years. I would like to formally propose that Stobert Tree Service is not our town tree service. There are many tree services that offer emergency tree work. They are listed in the Yellow Pages. We also now have a tree company in Arden. George Foard has been a free lance tree and landscape person for 23 years. He has just gone into business as Miller and Foard Tree and Landscape Service. On the same note, Playground has notified me that the safety rule involving trees is that no limb should be lower than seven feet to the ground. Discussion followed. It was decided that we could not do business with someone who did not follow through or communicate with us. It was suggested that George Foard does town work.

We received the notice from Wayne Smith's office that we will receive a check for \$12,000 for capital improvement on the Bond Bill Fund. This was to raise / replace the curbstones on the Sherwood Green. Sue will contact Downing to get it started.

Aaron said we have a lot of money in municipal street aid and we can take our roadwork out of it therefore freeing up some town money for the Avery project or something else. It was agreed upon.

Next Meeting: Tues Oct 22 7:30 pm