

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – October 30, 2002

Minutes prepared by Danny Schweers, Secretary, Village of Arden

Present: Sue Rothrock, chair, Lou Bean, Rick Grier-Reynolds, and Ken Sutton. *Momentarily present:* Aaron Hamburger and visitor Bev Bernet. *Absent:* Walter Broadbent. *Also Present:* Danny Schweers, wearing all his hats as secretary of this meeting, Town Watch coordinator, and chair of Arden Archives.

The meeting began at 7:42 p.m. Minutes of previous meeting, prepared by Sue Rothrock, were distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

REPAIRS TO MEADOW LANE BRIDGE. Ken Sutton reported that he has received two bids from residents of the Ardens to repair this stone bridge, struck by a trash truck owned by Waste Management, Inc. Both bids include rebuilding the damaged portion stone by stone. Anthony Borsello's bid was \$1,652 and Wayne Knotts bid was \$1,284. Because he has a reputation for this kind of work, because he has repaired this bridge once before, and because he was so prompt with his bid, Anthony Borsello was unanimously awarded the contract. Waste Management's insurance should partially offset the cost of these repairs.

Several possibilities were discussed to limit further damage to the bridge but none were accepted. Anthony Borsello suggested flaring the walls of the bridge at the entrances, but there is no place to put the flared walls. Wayne Knotts suggested bollards be erected at the entrances but, because vehicles turn into the bridge, these would not be effective. Lou Bean floated the idea that a horizontal concrete-filled pipe be erected along one side of the bridge as a guard.

DeIDOT GRANTS. Sue Rothrock reported that the Delaware Department of Transportation is funding grants for pedestrian pathways, as much as \$500,000 per project. Steven Threefoot, Chair of the Town Assembly, will help us apply for a grant to partially cover the cost of demolishing the concrete footbridge at the old swimming hole, repairing the sides, and erecting a new wooden bridge. Sue contacted Paige Dwyer of Ardentown, since Ardentown owns the land on the other side of the bridge. She said it had been forwarded to the Trustees.

BEER GARDEN DRAINAGE. Rick Grier-Reynolds had nothing new to report.

STREET SIGNS. Lou Bean noted that he maintains the street signs for the Village. These made of cedar by a firm in Pennsylvania. The incised letters are painted sloppily and then the entire face of the sign is sanded, removing the slop. This can be done three times or more before the signs are become too thin. Danny Schweers noted that one of the tasks of the Town Watch patrols, once they are resumed, will be to report illegible signs as well as other municipal items in need of maintenance such as clogged wastewater drains. Also, as part of Peg's memorial, the Archives will help fund plantings of trees and bushes at the Field Theater, including a survey of the property if this needs to be done first.

BULLETIN BOARDS. Sue Rothrock noted that nothing has been done yet to rebuild the bulletin board outside Gild Hall. The hope is still to erect a new board with a Plexiglas cover. Danny Schweers reported that the Arden Archives wishes to improve the bulletin board at the Field Theater so that copies of archival material may be displayed on an on-going basis. Peg Aumack had hoped to see this done and the Archives Committee wishes to use funds donated in her honor to make it a reality, specifically to put a Plexiglas cover over the board and a timed low-wattage lamp above the board so that it may be seen in the early hours after dark. Sue noted that she already has the Plexiglas and a hinge for the project.

POSTS AND RAILS. Lou Bean noted that he needs 3-4 posts and rails for maintenance. He had been donated many posts but, after three years in the Ice House, they rotted. He rejected the idea of concrete posts, saying that whoever invented them never carried one four blocks.

ESTUARY GRANTS. Bev Bernet stuck her head in just long enough to note that grants are now available to improve Delaware estuaries, with a dead line of early December. She suggested the Village apply for a grant to deal with the erosion problems in Sherwood Forest.

BOUNDARIES. Sue Rothrock noted that the property line between Arden and Marsha Avery's property has been marked with bright yellow plastic "caution" tape and that many of the trees on the property line have been marked with the letter "A" using non-durable paint. Marsha Avery had begun timbering the trees on her property and so the property line was clearly marked so her crew would not make any mistakes. (That timbering was halted by New Castle County officials. The County, Village, and State are working to acquire Marsha Avery's five acres.) (boundaries marked by Alton Dahl, Bill Theis, and Sue Rothrock)

Sue Rothrock noted that our property line also needs to be better marked along our boundary with Sunset Farms, where adjacent property owners are expanding their fiefdoms into our forest. She suggested a fence but Lou Bean thought that would be too expensive. Years ago birdhouses were erected and trees planted to mark the boundary, after discussion with residents of Sunset Farms. Sue argued that the birdhouses have proven to be ineffective in preventing people from extending their lawns into the forest or moving their sheds into the forest. She and Lou agreed to walk the property line together, soon, to examine the problem and make a report at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

TRAFFIC CONTROL. A resident on Wind Lane complained to Sue Rothrock of traffic cutting down that road to avoid the construction tie-ups at the intersection of Marsh and Harvey Roads, construction which will soon be complete. Sue requested that the resident poll their neighbors and that they suggest action to the Civic Committee, whether that be speed bumps or making the street a cul-de-sac with no outlet onto Marsh Road.

PERILOUS TREE. Sue Rothrock reported that Telford Tree company notified her of a cherry tree leaning over a residence. The tree might be in Arden, might be in Arden, might be on the resident's leasehold. Again, a recognized property line would help in situations such as this.

CANINE SANITARY POSTS. Liz Resko requested of Sue Rothrock that sanitary posts be erected on the greens to dispense plastic bags in which dog walkers could place their pets' gifts to nature. Ken Sutton noted that, before the leash law, dogs roamed free in Arden and their feces were never found on walkways.

TREE-FRIENDLY VILLAGE. Sue Rothrock noted that on Saturday, Nov. 2, at a slide presentation in Gild Hall concerning Sherwood Forest, the Village of Arden will be recognized by the State of Delaware as "tree-friendly" and its name entered into a national competition.

GREEN MAINTENANCE. Sue Rothrock had complaints from people that the current mowing service is inconsistent and often leaves large areas untouched. Also, they are not careful about weedwhacking around trees, whose bark gets damaged. Sue had a bid from a lawn contractor that lives in Arden. The committee discussed it and said that we should switch services to an in-village contractor if it is the same price as the present service. She also reported that the old curbstones from in front of the Buzz Ware Village Center will be used as edging around that building's landscaping. Lou Bean noted that those curbstones were cut in the 1930s by workers hired by the Works Progress Administration, a federal program instituted to put people back to work.

NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, Dec. 4 or 18 was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny N. Schweers
Secretary, Village of Arden