

# Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 5 January 2005

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

Sue Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Minutes of last meeting were approved.

**SEA OATS:** Sue shows original landscaping plan that was approved for Sherwood Green, noting that sea oats (48" tall) were planned for only a small area but were planted in large area instead. Had they been planted in a small area, they could have been easily controlled. Other plants were supposed to be planted, but never were including blue star grass (30" tall), purple dome aster (18" tall), coriopsis, and other flowers. In future, will remove sea oats near trees and bushes, and then trim the sea oats that remain.

**FENCING:** Ann reports that Beverly Barnett says there is no specific state grant available for fencing. Delaware Estuaries has grants, but it would take creative grant writing to qualify, next December. Some Federal forestry grants might be available. Sue noted that in a recent visit by an urban forester, the suggestion was made to create a living fence of shrubs.

Sue asks Lou to repair rail fence on Millers Road near Marsh Road where oak tree came down in December. Lou says we have rails in the Spring House.

**YEWS:** Have not yet been cut.

**BOND BILL:** None of the Ardens got Street Improvement grants for the first time since the program began 14 years ago.

**HOUES PROPERTY:** Work has been done by Downing. Water now runs off property into new drain. As well, a berm went in on Deborah Kenney's side, to stop water running off the road into her basement. Lou says all the recent road work looks excellent, the best ever!

**MEADOW LANE:** Deteriorating storm drain near Finn's property will need to be addressed soon. One warm day is all we need!

**LEAF REMOVAL:** Sue reports more cleared leaseholds this year than previous years. Need to add explanation to flyer to explain why we need folks to do this: to save village money and keep drains clear.

**BROADBENT LOOMING TREES.** Urban forester gave two trees clean bill of health months

ago and again last month. These are healthy trees; we don't want to cut down trees just because folks are afraid they might fall. Lou suggests trimming limbs. Sue says this possibility was considered, but there is not much to be done with these trees. Cabling is a possibility, but requires yearly maintenance. Lou says he had a tree cabled about five years ago; says he needs to look at it to see how it has fared without yearly maintenance.

**INDIAN CIRCLE TREE:** Urban forester says damaged tree is dying and will write a letter suggesting the tree be taken down as a public hazard.

**FIRE HAZARDS IN FORESTS:** State does have grants available to clear small fallen trees and dead ivy, both of which are fire hazards. The urban forester says ivy is the biggest problem facing the Ardens, especially fires that follow the ivy up the trees. Grants would cover clearing ivy. Forester says ivy is so thick and well established that cutting won't kill it; only alternative may be spraying.

**TRASH:** Eliot is working on trash corral for Buzz Ware Village Center.

## NEW ITEMS

**NOMINATIONS:** Terms concluding are Jacqi, Sue and Deborah. Sue and Deborah will be running again. Need four additional nominees.

**ARDEN FORESTER:** The idea of someone with separate responsibility for Arden forests was suggested at the Advisory Committee's meeting in November. Impetus is that forests are the last area of the village to get attention and at times are ignored. Sue doesn't think this need be a paid position. Danny suggests someone who would not be a member of the committee but who would report to committee, which would retain control of funds for forest maintenance.

**NEW SIGN FOR SHERWOOD FOREST:** Lou and David will put up the 20" x 40" (or so) cedar sign near Marsh Road, using cedar posts. Sue suggests posts attached to metal spikes.

**NEXT MEETING:** The first Wednesday in February, 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Danny Schweers, Secretary