

# Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 9 November 2005 -- uncorrected

Sue Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Lou Bean (member emeritus), Steven Blades, David Gerbec, Sue Rothrock, and Danny Schweers (secretary). Absent: Ann Schmittinger.

INVASIVES: Spray company knows everything won't be killed on first go round; in fact, they went back this morning with Elaine Schmerling. In one part of Ardentown, nothing died after the spraying.

DUMPING IN FOREST: Steven Threefoot has written a letter to our neighbors.

WOODS CLOSURE ORDINANCE: We will propose an ordinance at next meeting to close the woods from sunset to dawn except by permission by the Village Secretary or the Civic Committee.

LEAF REMOVAL: We sent a letter to all residents recently and so far have gotten no complaints. Memorial Garden will do its own leaf removal. We won't do any until we see how the Civic budget is impacted by the cost of the trees we are removing.

ONCE A WEEK TRASH: Sue talked to Steven Threefoot about this. Our contract and billing is separate from other Ardens, but the low fee is contingent on other Ardens, so all three villages will need to change at same time. Our present contract has been in force for 13 years.

NOMINEE: Dale Brumbaugh is our alternate and she would serve out Deborah Kenney's term through March, 2007, if elected. Nomination will be made at the January Town Meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

BROADBENT TREES: Telford has been busy with a demanding Sunoco contract, so Friel has gotten the contract, for \$1,000 each, to remove the two beeches. The two poplars will go as well. We got a \$2,000 grant from the State of Delaware to take them down. Telford is listed on the contract.

SEA OATS ON SHERWOOD GREEN: \$300 trimming recently; could not be weed-whacked, had to be cut by hand because they are so thick. They have both tap roots and lateral roots, choking nearby plants.

TRAILS GRANT: Have some money, over \$1,000, to get plants along paths trimmed; Damon Forsberg, of Ardencroft, will do work.

STREAM WATCH: We need to do a stream watch report as a grant requirement.

SEWER BACKUP: Sewer manhole at lower end of Hillside Road was leaking sewage a couple weeks ago again. Special Services at New Castle County responds to this quickly; if you hear of a problem, call them. Also, a sewer project is starting north of Naaman's Creek, replacing old sewers with new. We have two pipes that cross the creek from our village that tie into the sewer line on the other side.

SNOW BARRELS: Sue has ordered six of them from DelDOT to be placed at worst places. Committee discussed of usefulness of uncovered barrels full of ice-locked sand.

PLOWING CONTRACT: Jim Burslem has been doing it for \$80/hour and it takes about four hours per plowing. \$375 for a load of salt. Committee voted to

change the contract so streets are plowed after three (3) inches of snow OR when asked by committee chair.

CHECK FOR STREET AID: \$18,987.20 recently from the State of Delaware, about \$4,000 less than previous years. We now have \$65,000 or so of Municipal Street Aid, all of it to go towards road repair; other funds will go towards forests and greens where it is most needed. Road repair approved at previous meeting will start soon.

POLICIES: The Advisory Committee is asking all committees to write down their policies and procedures. Civic Committee approved (or re-approved) the following:

- 1) Any bid or proposal over \$5,000 must be signed by Chair of the Town Assembly as well as Civic Chair.
- 2) Civic Chair must sign all vouchers, which must be co-signed by another committee member or the Chair of the Town Assembly.
- 3) The Village Secretary is authorized to grant permission to individuals and organizations for the use the roads, commons and woods (including Indian Circle and the Field Theatre). This permission is subject to revision by the Civic Committee Chair or alternate, who must be informed immediately once permission is granted. The Safety Chair must also be informed. Exclusive use is subject to a \$100 fee payable to the Village. There is no charge for events open to the public. Secretary must keep a calendar of all permissions granted, and make it available to the public.

POLICY CONCERNING MENACING TREES: At our next meeting, it would be good to set a policy about trees on public land that pose a hazard to leaseholds. One suggestion is to conduct a survey every five years of these trees. Four people have complained of trees since Village agreed to take down the trees near the Broadbents' leasehold.

WEED 'N' WALK IN ARDEN IN NOVEMBER. Meets at Border's house at end of Cherry Lane.

PUBLIC LAND USURPED BY LEASEHOLDS. Extension of Sherwood Road is an example of a former fire lane used as a driveway. Was supposed to be a fire lane, but it has a tree and boulder in way, so not of much use to fire companies. The leaseholder wants to add all but first 20 feet to his leasehold. The first 20 feet is shared driveway with neighbor. Doing this would allow the leaseholder to properly maintain that land and to pay land rent for use of it.

FOREST SUB-COMMITTEE: After discussion at Advisory Committee two nights ago, with Sally Sharpe in attendance as chair of the sub-committee, it was agreed that it should continue for as a sub-committee at least until March, 2007. Question is whether its members should be appointed or elected. Three members may be plenty. It was agreed to have members elected. This will be proposed at the January Town Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 4, 7:30 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 8:45 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,  
Danny N. Schweers, Secretary