

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 1 February 2006 - UNCORRECTED

Sue Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Dale Brumbaugh was elected at the last Town Meeting to complete Deborah Kenney's term of office, to March, 2007. She could not make tonight's meeting because of a family emergency. At that same Town Meeting, Rodney Jester and Walter Rosenkrantz offered to serve and David Gerbec and Ann Schmittinger are willing to serve additional terms.

WOODS ORDINANCE: The first reading of the Woods Ordinance was made at the last town meeting and two more readings will be made before it becomes law. Ordinance basically says woods will be closed from dusk to dawn except by permission of the committee in charge of the forest or as that authority is delegated to the Town Secretary.

THE TWO BROADBENT BEECH TREES are down. Other two poplar trees were waiting on Telford, who has not been available. State forester says we can get someone else.

STREETS. The \$8,000 annual grant is being done differently now. Now we do the work and then apply for the grant. That's basically how it works.

MENACING TREES. Sally Sharp, Brian Hall (state forester), and Sue Rothrock looked at trees today in Sherwood Forest. Tree behind Clay Riding's house will be tested. Sue noted that the trees can be managed as a forest or as a park. Right now we are managing it as a forest, but also treat it as a park in that we manage paths and eradicate invasive species. Today's walkers found several dead trees in the woods, some still standing, which is our policy. A policy pursued in some state forests is to take down dead and dying trees within 15 feet of houses and paths. Our policy is different for forests and greens; dangerous trees on the greens are taken down; trees in the forest are allowed to stand until they fall, even long after they have died.

FENCING: Some homeowners at Sunset Farms continue to treat Sherwood Forest as if it were their own, extending their lawns, erecting sheds, using the forest as a dump, etc. About 1998 or 1997 we planted 90 or so trees and now perhaps ten are left, many of which someone cut down. Many of our bird boxes have been removed. There are tires and chain link fence in the woods. Ann Schmittinger and Danny Schweers agreed to work on a letter to the homeowners. Add to letter that Village should be notified if a building permit is requested of the County, and that Village will be responsible for any tree work in the forest, not the

homeowner.

OTHER TREES: Big oak on Meadow Lane is healthy, but another, on New Castle County side of Meadow Lane has been hit by vehicles and is doing poorly. The residents in New Castle County along Meadow Lane (with a 40' ROW) should be paying for trash collection and road use. Are they?

NEW ADDITION TO SHERWOOD FOREST: Bad: Someone has their horseshoe pit in the woods. Good: Discovery of a stand of shaggy bark hickory trees there.

FOREST SUB-COMMITTEE: Considering encroachment issue. Suggest that any time a home bordering Arden is sold or added to, we should ask for a survey and, if construction is to take place, we need to have boundary clearly marked and encroachment issues explained to the homeowners. On question of nominations and elections, Forest Sub-Committee wants the same appointed members for the next year. Some members will work on Weed 'n' Walk.

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES: Discussion ensued about how ordinances and policies are to be enforced, especially when monetary damages are involved. Question arose whether homeowners adjacent to forest need to inform village of construction. If Trustees are informed of construction, we should be notified.

PATHS: Damon is clearing our paths, cutting back encroaching bushes. Cut bamboo along Clubhouse Path recently, working on Milky Way today. Poor drainage on Grocery Path will be the last path addressed; possibly with gravel built up, perhaps with a perforated drain, all to carry water to drain.

RECYCLING: Ardentown bins are open to all three Ardens, until they get too filled. There is a lot of room there now for leaves.

BUZZ WARE: The trash can corral will now be built by Rick Rothrock. Handicap sign will go on one side and Rules of the Green will go on the other. Still have an undeveloped bed in front designated for native plants.

BERM IN FRONT OF SADIE'S: The berm has been completed and the speed bump was cut, allowing for much better drainage.

GATEWAYS: This project is waiting on state action, from the Delaware Department of Transportation, which had a new director sworn in today, who may not have her predecessor's desire to designate.

COST OF PLOWING: \$950 for one very icy snowfall. This price included the mixing of sand and salt and its spreading as well as plowing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Schweers, Secretary