

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 1 March 2006 - uncorrected

Sue Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

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

Dale was introduced and Steven thanked for brownies.

TOWN MEETING: March 27 is next meeting. We will be reading Woods Closing Ordinance again.

STREETS: Will get \$8,000 annual grant, but in next fiscal year. \$4,000 each through the offices of state representatives Wayne Smith and Cathy Clothier. We need to get a specific job bid, send it in to state, then, after contract is complete, the state will pay it. As an example of what things cost, resurfacing Little Lane would be \$20,000. Downing is still working on Little Lane drainage. That small drainage problem became huge when Harvey Road was resurfaced, sending all the water off Harvey Road down Little Lane. Now the water's being pushed back onto Harvey Road.

ROADS SURVEY: Next meeting is first of new fiscal year. Walking around maps will be provided on which committee members can mark roads in need of repair.

MENACING TREES: Sally Sharpe, Brian Hall and Sue walked around forest; then Sue and Friel. Haven't gotten prices back on cost of tree repair and maintenance. Sally and Sue will mark which beech trees are to be removed near Riding's leasehold; trees were damaged in construction and by tree trimmer climbing them with cleats. Another tree in the forest, at the end of Walnut Lane, is leaning over Mike Curtis's house.

FENCING: Ann and Danny will write letter to encroaching neighbors.

FOREST SUB-COMMITTEE. Nothing to report.

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES: Sue will write letter.

PATHS: Damon is doing well clearing paths, will take down old wire fence behind Schweers/Henry leasehold.

TRASH CAN CORRAL: Rick Rothrock is recovering from surgery; corral will materialize after he heals.

BERM IN FRONT OF SADIE'S: Looks good. Berm on Pond Lane has been replaced twice; doesn't work well; might be a place for a concrete gutter.

SNOW PLOWING: Last snow storm cost us \$1,640. Pond Lane typically gets a whole day without plowing to give the kids and Jack D. a place to sled.

COMPOSTING SESSION: Steven Blades attended the composting session in Ardentown. Where we might put our own composting site is open to debate. Sue notes Sherwood Green extends 20 feet beyond line of trees.

STAKING: David says survey stakes are now required by County when surveys are made.

TREE POLICIES: Urban Forester is the authority in many places that have policies in place. If someone asks for a tree to be taken down, if the Forester says the tree is OK, then person wanting tree down pays for the removal. Also, a bond is often required for construction near trees. The bond can earn interest, all given back to person doing construction some time after construction is complete. Our Urban Forester says we have one of the largest black oaks in the state, also chestnuts. Can search Delaware State website for Big Tree List at www.state.de.us/deptagri/forestry/forms/bigtrees.pdf.

SETBACKS: County only requires a setback of eight feet in side yard, which means construction can go over roots and damage them. Mike Curtis, a former tree person, suggests extra set-back for Village, say, 20 feet from trees. [NOTE: Mike would like Trustees' tree policy on theArdens.com.]

NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m., a record for short meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Schweers, Secretary