

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 12 July 2006 – uncorrected

Present: Steven Blades, David Gerbec, Sue Rothrock and Ann Schmittinger. Also present was Danny Schweers (secretary). Absent was Dale Blumbaugh.

Sue called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Minutes were approved.

TREE ON HARVEY ROAD NEAR MEADOW LANE: Sue called the State Arborist, who said a survey was made and the tree IS on the highway right-of-way, meaning the state will take care of this sickly tree.

WOODS CLOSING ORDINANCE: The final reading was made and the woods are now closed, by ordinance, from dusk to dawn, just like the state parks.

FOREST COMMITTEE: It is now a full committee, independent of the Civic Committee. Sue read its report to the most recent meeting of the Town Assembly.

TRASH COLLECTION: Waste Management wants to increase rates to \$19.55 per household per month from the current fee of \$13.24 (our old contract from 1995, which has added to it a surcharge based on the price of gasoline.). Our budget will increase from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per year if this rate change goes into effect. The chairs of the three villages have met and, led by Harry Themal of Ardentown, bids have been requested from other companies, asking what they would charge for one and two pickups per week. At the moment, we are not paying for recycling and, because recycling has reduced amount collected each week, we are considering once-a-week pickup. New rates will not go into effect until October.

TRASH BUDGET: If nothing changes, what has been budgeted for trash will be \$7,500 less than the approximately \$50,000 needed. At the moment, we have not budgeted about \$3,000 in the \$19,000 Commons budget, but we need to reserve this for upcoming tree work, especially near the Stile, where dead trees overhang the Deramo leasehold, but we need to get a survey there because the dead trees may be on Ardentown land, not ours. State has grant money available again. Ridings tree, if it has to come down, will be nearly \$4,000.

DOWNING'S BID FOR ROAD REPAIR: We have prioritized repairs. We will not take Downing up on its \$5,875 bid to replace the Sherwood Green overflow parking asphalt with gravel. The bid we have from Downing for all our anticipated repairs is a \$35,762 bid plus \$4,400 to finish work on the Little Lane and Harvey Road project. One of the biggest items in their bid is the concrete gutter down Pond Lane, \$11,735. If we leave that out, we can do everything else for \$29,000. At the moment, we have \$18,000 budgeted from the Village plus \$37,177.63 in Municipal Street Aid at hand. If we spend \$29,000, that will still leave an adequate reserve for emergency road work, though some could go to cover the trash pickup shortfall. Work on Hillside Road will run about \$7,000 and needs to be done. Rest of work is potholes, areas breaking up, etc. Committee approves all of Downing's work except for Pond Lane work.

TREE CITY: Arden has been named Tree City U.S.A., by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

PUMP HOUSE PATH: Roberta Perkins wants wood chips on the path. There are wood chips behind the New Candlelight Theatre and Damon has been authorized to put some of those on Pump House Path. The money can come out of Path money.

EMERGENCY TREE WORK IN SUE'S ABSENCE: Yes, Civic Committee members can call Friel or Telford to do tree work if Sue is absent. Denis O'Regan has a chainsaw and flares if his Safety Committee needs to be involved. Suggestion is made to have a policy to notify leaseholders to care for their threatening trees or be charged if tree does, in fact, drop into roadway.

ADJOURNED: 8:41 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, September 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny N. Schweers, Secretary