

CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 21, 2008 (UNCORRECTED)

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 PM by Sue Rothrock, Chair, at the BWVC.

PRESENT: Steven Blades, Dale Brumbaugh
Greg Morrison, Sue Rothrock, Anne Schmittinger, Larry Walker, Town Secretary

VISITORS

Walter Rosenkranz

AGENDA CHANGE

Sue Rothrock said the policy of the Civic Committee was to allow a visitor to address the meeting first.

Warren Rosenkranz, Visitor, said that there was interest in developing a Community Garden on the Sherwood Green on the South side. He said that there are about half a dozen people who wanted small garden plots.

Sue said that the Arden Fair uses all of that area, Warren wanted a 20 x 40 area for this garden, and it would be used in future years by other residents. Sue asked that the group put together a written proposal, and it needs to include fencing, provisions for watering, dealing with children, how the area could be restored after the garden was abandoned, etc. It would be necessary that there be a firm, detailed proposal so that it could be considered carefully. Warren said that he only wanted a sense of the Committee at this time, and Dale said that this had been discussed previously in a positive light. Anne Schmittenger asked if it should be located instead on the Village Green, but the problem there would be difficulty in watering. Greg Morrison asked how the plots would be leased. Sue said that the Civic Committee could make a recommendation on opening up a Green to garden plots, but final approval must come from the Town Meeting. Dale Brumbaugh said that she felt the Committee would be supportive, but a formal

detailed proposal should first be made. Anne Schmittinger said that this could be an important part of the community life, and she was initially in favor. Sue said that at one time she was told that there were Victory Gardens on the Village Green.

Steven Blades suggested that the Petit Green in Ardentown might be a better location for the Community Garden, because of less use and better soil. Warren and his group would have to contact the Trustees of Ardentown, if his group wants to follow that up.

The Meeting returned to its normal Order of Business.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the May 2008 Meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Roads

Sue said that Road Repairs when finished will cost approximately \$24,000, and much of that will come from Municipal Street Aid. This is less expensive than last year's work, and the biggest item was the concrete gutter from the Craft Shop leading down to Walnut Lane.

There has been a request for a macadam curb in front of Eric Walker's new house on Orleans Road to minimize runoff that comes down Orleans Road. This would have to be a project for a future year. There has been a precedent for this, as the Committee had installed a macadam curb to protect Sadie Sommerville's leasehold from Sherwood Road runoff.

Tree Work

All of the tree work discussed at the last Meeting has been done, with the exception of the removal of the ash tree in front of the BWVC, and the removal of the poplar at the Stile Garden. Hopefully, the ash will last for

another year.

Town Bulletin Board

Jim Burslem's contract to build an additional Town Bulletin Board had been approved at the last Meeting. David Burslem, after he was asked, presented a quote that was \$200 less. However, David said that he would want to change parts of the design to improve it. The blueprint for the Bulletin Board was paid for and approved by the Town years ago. Greg and Dale both said that David could do the work, provided he stayed with the design. Sue will meet with David to make sure he would stick to the approved design, should he be awarded the contract.

Patros Path

Seth Van Neerden will soon put down additional stone dust to raise the level of the material between the flagstones on Patros Path.

Trail Grant

Damon Forsberg has been cleaning up the Arden Paths, and they look good now.

Re-painting the Speed Humps

Sue had called a striping company, and they have not responded.

Sue had received requests to have the speed humps painted, and two individuals had complained about the "non-conforming" Speed Hump on Wind Lane. She also said that she had not received any complaints from any resident on Wind Lane and Hillside Road about the recently installed Speed Humps. They appeared to be doing their job of deterring drivers from using those roads to by-pass the traffic light at Harvey and Marsh Roads.

There continues to be a problem with the intersection of Lower Lane, Walnut Lane, and Miller Roads with drivers not completely stopping their cars. Sue suggested that the striping company install painted wide lines with

the word STOP painted on the pavement. This was discussed, and was decided against.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget for FY 2009-2010

The Budget Committee will need the Civic Committee's Budget Forecast by August. This year, the Budget Line Item for Trash Removal was \$48,000 and it has proven to be a high figure. Waste Management has stayed with the Contract pricing, and they have not indicated that they are going to ask for a fuel surcharge increase. Sue suggested that the Budget figure remain at \$48,000 for next year.

This year, there was minimal road work done and the tree work required expending all of the money in that budget. The Committee approved that the Budget Line Item for Roads and Commons should be increased to \$38,000.

Greg asked why there had been so much more tree work needed in recent years. Larry said that in 1920, there were very few trees in Arden, as it was recently converted from farmland. That would mean that most of the trees here are about 80 years old, and the poplars and sweet gum trees are at the point in their life cycle where they will decline. Also, Sue said that there have been new funguses and diseases that have affected a great number of trees. Greg asked about the implication of this, and Larry and Sue said that it is a potential very major problem that the Village must soon deal with.

Steven said that he had received a verbal request from Brooke Bovard to have the regular trash picked up twice a week. Because of cost considerations, this could not be done.

Greg Morrison said that he had asked Waste Management for a Green Trash Can, and he was told by them that he had to go through his local civic association. Sue said that he should try again.

Sue said that to get grant money to plant new trees, a lot of effort and approvals would be required. A grant for planting new trees would have to go through the State Government approval process, but Greg said that he would be willing at least to look at the grant application forms.

Sue reported that she continues to have problems getting correct reports from Brandywine Accounting. The Quick Books Program that is presently used deals with categories like Profit and Loss and is not suited for use by a government agency.

Lawn Mowing

Seth Van Neerden has sold his interest the Turning Leaf Company, which is our mowing contractor, but the company continues to honor their contract. However, a new contractor will be needed for next year. Sean Van Neerden said that his company might be interested in bidding for the work.

Town Speed Limit

Dale asked about a way of slowing down the speed of traffic on Cherry Lane. Sue said that the "Speed Limit for the Town is 20 mph, but that might be too fast. This should be brought up to the Safety Committee.

Larry was asked to recover the wooden street signs that presently are stored in Lou Bean's basement. These should be stored in the Spring House. Sue said that all Committee Members should be on the lookout for damaged or, obscured signs, and recommend changes in signage.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The time and date for the next Meeting was not set.

By Larry Walker
Secretary to the Village