

CIVIC COMMITTEE
VILLAGE OF ARDEN
OCTOBER 20, 2008

Sue Rothrock, Committee Chair, called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 PM at the BWVC.

The following were in attendance:

Steven Blades, Dale Brumbaugh, Greg Morrison, Sue Rothrock, Annie Schmittinger, Larry Walker,
Secretary to the Village.

Visitor: Steven Threefoot, Chairman of the Town Assembly.

1. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the last Meeting, taken by Annie Schmittinger, were read, Corrected, and Approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

The issue of Community Gardens is still ongoing. Shelly Robyn is reportedly meeting with other residents to work out details and determine definite interest.

The collapsing and broken storm grates were repaired and/or replaced. Downing, Inc. continues to make road repairs. The speed bumps and parking lot lines have been painted.

3. NEW BUSINESS

ENCROACHMENTS INTO THE ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The street-side fence at the former Grier- Reynolds leasehold encroaches a short distance into the Walnut Lane right-of-way. Since the fence is seven feet off the road, it is not a safety issue. Civic feels that the fence should remain, since it is old and not a problem. Some of the hedges along Walnut Lane encroach on to the right of way and that has not been questioned. The Civic Committee wants to keep hedges or fences if they do not pose a safety issue. The Trustees position is to require that the fence be moved back. The Trustees were not concerned about hedges. The Trustees were concerned that the Civic Committee policy was arbitrary and played favorites. The problem is that fences are not indicated on old survey maps so many of them have been there for many years.

The Town Chair spoke about a 'Revocable Lease' which was documentation making the clear point that a leaseholder whose fence or hedges were encroaching on an area of Town land such as a right-of-way, could retain, and must maintain that area. The lease could be revoked if necessary. This revocable lease must be passed on to the next leaseholder. He said that when people are selling their houses, they are under a lot of stress, and having the revocable lease can minimize a lot of tension and conflict. By putting the document in the lease file it is no longer a subjective issue.

There was discussion that the Civic Committee would have to go through all leaseholds within a set period of time and issue revocable leases where necessary and in a clear and fair manner. The Trustees have required that prior to a lease transfer there is a boundary survey with the corners staked and flagged, making it easy to recognize any boundary issues. There was discussion as to whether one should be given to the neighbor whose fence matches up to the Grier-Reynolds fence. The Civic Committee decided that the Revocable Lease would only be done at time of sale. Since it is a town issue, a letter from the Town Secretary should be the proper method of issuing the document.

The next issue under encroachments is Ordinance No. 11. Safety Committee gave a list of problem intersections to Civic. It was discussed that the Safety Committee should be responsible for administering this Ordinance since it stresses the concern of safety. The Committee was in agreement that Ordinance No. 11 should be brought up at the Advisory Retreat, and the Safety should be given the decision-making powers.

GRASS MOWING FOR 2009

Turf Management Company had presented a proposal for \$10,500, which was slightly more than the previous contract. The contract would be good for two years, with bi-weekly cutting. This was about the same amount that has been charged by previous mowing contractors. Larry Walker asked to submit a proposal for mowing. Civic decided that the contract would be decided at the next meeting.

SNOW REMOVAL

Jim Burslem has presented the usual snow removal contract, and it is based on an hourly rate. The Committee approved the contract.

LEAF REMOVAL

Sue said that recycling bags can no longer be ordered on-line since there are only a few communities that do not pay for them. Sue said that the old recycle bags that had not been turned in could still be used for leaf bags. Civic usually sends a leaf removal policy to all residents. This year a change has been made to state that any leaf burning is against State of Delaware Regulations, not just New Castle County.

SAND BARRELS

In the past, DELDOT had said that sand barrels would not be placed within the community, but Sue saw that last year sand barrels had been placed within Ardentown. So this year, Sue asked them to place an additional barrel at the top of Pond Lane.

TREE PROBLEMS

In response to a request from Finn Hanover, Sue checked out a tree that had been undercut by the stream next to Meadow Lane, and it was leaning toward his house. There is also a large poplar tree on the edge of Pond Lane across from the Barnett-Dahl leasehold, and it is leaning toward their house. It was decided to remove the tree because of its location and because of the direction in which it is leaning.

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

A lexan covering installed on the back of the new Village Sign Board, so that permanent village information could be placed there, would cost \$180. A solar light installed to illuminate the sign, would increase it to \$260. The Committee approved the installation of both the lexan sheet and the light.

The next meeting will be on the third Monday of the following month, November 17, 2008. The Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Larry Walker
Secretary to the Village