

CIVIC COMMITTEE MEEETING
VILLAGE OF ARDEN
NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Present: Steven Blades, Dale Brumbaugh, Greg Morrison, Sue Rothrock, Annie Schmittinger,
Larry Walker, Village Secretary

Visitors: Garden group: Hunter Clarke, Shelly Robyn, Toby Rydings,

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:35 pm by Chair Sue Rothrock at the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Sue said the policy of the Civic Committee is to allow visitors to speak first.

The garden group said that at this time there are eight Arden residents interested in having a garden plot. They said that all participants would pay a fee, and this would cover assorted expenses. The area that they were most interested in was the fenced in area, called the "Tot Lot" Playground behind the BWVC. The group felt that the area was not being used. The nearness to the BWVC would make getting water convenient. They said that they thought they could leave some of the playground equipment. The group felt that using other areas of the greens would interfere with the Arden Fair and other activities. One of the difficulties in using the Village Greens was that there was no water available.

Sue Rothrock said that there was precedent for gardening on the Greens, for there were Victory Gardens during World War II. She asked if the group included people from Ardentown and Ardencroft, and if they had approached Ardentown for use of the Petit Green, which has minimal use. Also, there is a fire hydrant on that Green, which may be able to be a source of water. The group said they had not approached Ardentown yet. They also said they thought about the area around Eden Rock. The Committee expressed approval for the concept of garden plots, but felt that a final proposal would have to go through the Community Planning Committee and ultimately the Town Assembly.

Larry Walker spoke as a member of the Playground Committee, and said that he would oppose taking apart the Playground. A lot of Town money had gone into creating Tot Lot, and it did not make sense to take down the equipment and redo the area. He said it would be cheaper for the group to take an adjoining area, and put up a fence. In the Tot Lot, the earth under the mulch was subsoil, because the area had been excavated for the "temporary" installation of classroom modules 25 years ago. To fill in the "mulch hole" would require about 80 cu. yds. of topsoil, which presently sells for approximately \$25 per cu. yd. The material costs alone would be \$2,000, and mulch disposal, playground apparatus removal and disposal, and equipment and labor charges had not been included as costs.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 11 AND REVOCABLE LEASE

Sue reported that Ordinance No. 11 had been discussed at the recent Advisory Retreat. The Advisory Committee recommended that if Ordinance No. 11 is to be enforced by the Safety Committee, it would have to be revised so that it would be about safety only and enforceable. The language needed to be changed in some areas so the provisions could be consistently applied. Sue said she would work with the Safety Committee to revise Ordinance 11. The part of Ordinance No. 11 pertaining to issues other

than safety would have to be addressed separately. Sue said that the Revocable Lease had been devised because of the boundary issues on the rights-of-way, which are not safety issues. If the Civic or Forest Committees felt that an encroachment was not causing a safety issue, a Revocable Lease could be issued. That would protect the interests of the Village, and require that the leaseholder maintain the area. The Trustees were very concerned that Revocable Lease should only be issued at the time of lease transfer, since that is the time when a full survey is made. The Trustees wanted to be sure that the policy would be applied consistently and fairly.

Greg Morrison felt that safety should be the determining factor in dealing with an encroachment, not simply a location. Greg felt that greenery in the in the rights-of-way was a good thing for the appearance of Arden, and he was not in favor of cutting down hedges and trees to simply push a leaseholder back to the surveyed boundary.

GRASS MOWING

The Committee went into Executive Session to consider contract proposals. After deliberations, and by committee member vote, Turf Management Company was awarded the mowing contract.

LEAF REMOVAL

Sue said that she had delivered notices to half of the Village. Greg and Steven Blades agreed to distribute the rest of the notices this week.

SAND BARRELS

The sand barrels have been placed in the Village. One was placed incorrectly, and DELDOT has been contacted to move it.

TREE REMOVAL

The poplar tree on Pond Lane that was discussed at the last meeting is located on a leaseholder's land, instead of the right-of-way, so the Committee cannot remove the tree. Trees were trimmed and a few dead ones removed in the memorial overflow area. Also a dying hollow tree was removed from the right-of-way on Millers Rd.

NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATION FOR PARKING ON SHERWOOD GREEN

Rodney Jester applied to use the Sherwood Green for parking for a Junior League event, which will also use the entire BWVC building. The date for the event and the requested parking is April 4, 2008, and the request was approved.

NOMINATIONS

Town Committee Elections will be coming up in March, and nominees are needed by the January Town Meeting. The two-year terms of Sue, Steven, and Dale will be up in March 2009. Sue said she would stand for re-election, and Steven and Dale also agreed. Sue asked the Committee to talk to people to find residents would be willing to run.

PARKING ON SHERWOOD GREEN

Sue, Steven Threefoot, and the Arden Club President will meet to discuss the problem of parking on the Sherwood Green. The Club regularly has large events that require extra parking and the Buzz Ware Center is also having large events that require more parking. The Green has regularly been damaged and repaired. Sue said that one of the ideas to be discussed would be using the Town land on the north end of the green. The area is presently covered with scrub trees, and is approximately 20 ft. wide. In addition, Sunset Lane would be finished from the new parking area to Sherwood as a one way exit. Sue said that she had estimated that the cost for all those changes would be \$75,000. Greg wondered if grant money would be available, and Sue said that it could be looked into.

PAVING

Denis O'Regan said that there was a drainage problem at the house at 1911 Orleans Road, as the water coming down Orleans Road empties on to his property. Sue asked for an estimate for installing a berm of asphalt, and the estimated cost was over \$2500. Sue and Dale looked at the situation in a heavy rain, and observed that the water coming down Orleans Road stayed on the other side of the road in the concrete gutter. The only runoff going into 1911 was from the neighbor's driveway. The Committee voted against the berm.

There was a concern that The Highway was very narrow across from the Arden Club Parking Lot, was getting rutted, and that the road could be widened at that point. The cost to widen the road between the two driveways of the parking lot would be \$3275, which would include moving the stone curbstones. Sue asked the members to look at the area.

Dale Brumbaugh asked about the road repairs in front of 2304 Cherry Lane, where the water company made an emergency repair. Sue said that the water company had told her that this repair should be made this coming week.

Greg thought that the repaired drainage ditch area by David Nordheimer's house was a problem. He suggested that the area be filled with stone.

There is no December meeting. The next meeting will be the third Monday in January, which is January 19, 2009.

Submitted by,

Larry Walker
Secretary to the Village of Arden