

CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING
VILLAGE OF ARDEN
JANUARY 19, 2009

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:40 by Chair Sue Rothrock, and the following were in attendance:

Sue Rothrock, Steven Blades, Dale Brumbaugh, Larry Walker, Secretary to the Village of Arden.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 2008 Civic Committee Meeting were Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Sue said that the position of the Civic Committee on the proposal from the Community Garden Interest Group (CGIG) was that they were in favor of the idea of a community garden. However, they wanted to be sure that all details and issues are well thought out beforehand. Issues like returning the area to its present state, residents knowing that the area would look barren half of the year, concerns of security for the area, etc. must all be resolved beforehand. The Committee felt it was appropriate that the final decision on this rested with the Town, since it was such a decided change from recent uses of the Greens.

Ordinance No. 11 has been under revision, and Sue has been trying to work with Denis O'Regan of the Safety Committee on the wording. Also, Sue has consulted Steven Threefoot on this, who can consult with the Village's attorney. Sue said that the current thinking is that Ordinance will be split into two new Ordinances, because the original was too long and complicated to revise effectively

Sue asked for nominations for the upcoming Town Election. Steven Blades said that he would not run for re-election. Other names were mentioned, and Members will contact them. Sue and Dale said they will stand for re-election.

Overflow Parking on Sherwood Green might be a project for the possible infrastructure improvement program that the new President has been pushing for. To expand and upgrade the parking in that area could be a considerable project, with necessary engineering design, re-survey of the area, and estimated construction costs all needed to put together a project budget estimate.

Downing, our road repair contractor, reported that after culvert repairs on Millers Road and Walnut Lane, the paving had been done with a bad batch of asphalt, and the material on Miller Road has been crumbling. They checked with the supplier, and it was confirmed that the batch of hot mix was bad. Downing confirmed that they will redo that area of paving in the spring at no cost to the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

Seth Van Neerden's encroachment on the right of way, with their stockade fence, has been resolved and the leasehold has been transferred. At the time of the last transfer, the fence had been moved back on Millers Road and Hillside Road, but there were small encroachments because of the locations of some large trees and a large rhododendron. Sue said that she had visited the leasehold, seen the new corner flags, and felt that it was appropriate to issue a revocable lease/license for the fence location. The new leaseholder has been informed that if any major repairs for those fences are needed, the issue will be addressed again by the Civic Committee.

The Three Year Budget Forecasts have been requested by the Budget Committee, and Sue estimated that there will be increases in Roads and Trash. It is estimated that the Waste Removal should go up 5% in the coming year. Sue said that she had passed on to Harry Themal, the trash negotiator for the Three Ardens, the request of the Arden Club to have the Town's trash pickup changed to earlier in the week. The Club's concern had been that the food and garbage from the Saturday dinners would sit for six days before regular pickup, and that had been a problem. They will look into getting a small dumpster for the Gild Hall, with the pickups on Wednesdays. The Commons and Roads Line Item will be increased by \$1,000 for each of the three years. The Committee was in agreement on those Budget changes.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by,

Larry Walker
Secretary to the Village