

**Arden Civic Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 26 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom meeting**

**Attendance:** Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, Ed Rohrbach

Absent: Rick Farrell, Mark Wood

**Call to Order** 7:37 p.m.

**Approval of December 2021 Minutes** approved as presented.

**Categories**

- Administrative
  - Election Candidates: Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, Simon Hamermesh and Bob Erenburg.

- Budget

\$2,00 to \$3,000 left in MSA funds. Steve wanted to know can MSA funds be used for signage (town's own signs)? Carol suggests refer to the MSA list that details how those funds can be spent.

With the remaining funds available, Steve suggests to determine projects and prioritize by end of February.

Suggestions for projects:

Popular tree on Harvey near the stile. It has two big leaders; one leader is hollowed. Ron's estimated cost \$1,800 for both leaders. Ed will take a look to confirm if it needs to be cut.

\$500 to clear circular area near Field Theater.

There are a couple of trees at Millers and Hillside Rd in the right-of-way that are growing in the wires that are covered with ivy. One of the trees is leaning into the wires. They need to talk to the leaseholder. Carol will obtain a quote.

The Ash tree treatments along with a group of trees on the civic land still need to be billed by Carol (estimate a couple of thousand)  
Ed and Carol will determine what to do (pre-approved)

For next meeting discuss pruning projects, etc.

- Transportation Planning Group

There was a presentation last week. Steve and Rick are part of this group. Community Planning and Safety brought this up at the town meeting to get a sense of community support that Civic is a part of the working group and it was favorable. Civic had a phone meeting with Bill Swaitek, one of the planners of Wilmpco. He thinks that Civic Committee is in very good shape for some kind of a partnership with Wilmpco because Ben's presentation was very professional and very thorough. In the current round of projects, Steve believes they are going to be high on the listing but it is not guaranteed. They are going to concentrate on traffic calming on Harvey Rd, Marsh Rd and Veal Rd.

- Street signs

Steve spent a lot of time searching for on line auctions tools and he discovered it's costly and he thinks maybe it's not worth their efforts. In the meantime, he

recommends storing them in the spring house or store them in his basement until Arden events come up where they can set up a table and sell them for \$15 /ea. or \$20 for larger size.

- Roads / Paths

- Path Markers

Some path markers need to be replaced. Sue Rothrock believes David Burslem installed them. Ed will survey all paths (Lovers Walk, Grocery Path, Club House Path, Pump Path, Stile Path, Milky Way) to determine those needing replacement. He will also contact David to see if he would be interested in replacing only the broken ones. Ed believes they are 4 x 4 made of Redwood or Cedar and they are engraved with the name of the path.

- Paving/Patching Priorities

Rick suggests the next set of paving should be done in the next fiscal year. If there is significant patching, that could be done in March.

- Need to install concrete gutters along Mill Rd near Hoopes leasehold and a gutter on Lower Lane (comes down Meadow Lane). Need a contractor to install concrete gutters and it has to be coordinated with the Storm Water Management Plan. Also, since there is budgeted money available for projects, Carol suggests to replace a couple of catch basins on Millers Rd this year. Steve and Carol will check with Drew for the type of catch basins to install and ask for a recommendation for a contractor (Raybold?).

- Water flows down Inn Lane to Barbara Shippy's leasehold. Steve wondering if Smith Paving should redirect water by installing a curving temporarily. Carol said when they changed the paving, it changed what was happening.

The Storm Water Management Plan will install something called a I- 1 Planter. Carol describes what she thinks a jagged planter garden process would involve. She believes that they will excavate down and make a stone base with a drain at one end and plant a garden on top. It will hold water and direct it out the other end. It will infiltrate some of it. However, Carol suggests someone talk to Barbara about this since it is on her leasehold and it is a right- of- way issue.

- Trash Tech
  - After Steve’s meeting with some of the residents who live in what is known as the donut-hole area of Arden about their trash service, he contacted Trash Tech with their concerns and was assured they would take care of them.
  - Billing issues

Skip noticed an increase in Trash Tec billing. It has to do with the fact that the number of tots that they claim are being used are more than they thought. They are charging based on their observation of 7 to 10 leaseholds with additional trash cans. Jeff and Steve counted cans and compared it to the spreadsheet that they sent to Trash Tec when negotiating the village contract. The new count indicated that Arden actually has less pick up locations (232) then what they contracted for (236). They are in the midst of working it out. Ed and Carol both say that their tots are so big that they have to only put them out once every two to three weeks.

- Service Issues: Leaking trucks was a problem. A couple weeks ago there was crushed glass that fell from the trash trucks at every leasehold. Trash Tech had a broken truck and they were waiting for a part to fix it, probably stuck in the supply chain. Carol and Steve spent several hours sweeping up glass for the entire Village. Other issues off and on, but have not heard of any issues lately. Steve mentioned at the January Town Assembly that Civic does not monitor social media about TrashTech services. If residents have a complaint, they need to contact Civic Committee directly.

- Projects / Grants

- Storm Water Management Plan -

A poll to get a sense of the community was taken at the town assembly meeting where 9 projects were listed with instructions to 1. Mark up to three choices for your favorite idea and 2. To prioritize your three choices on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is do not think this idea should be done and 5 is I love it.

The results were as follows:

Storm Water Mitigation Projects 86%

BWVC Sewer Improvements 81%

Village-wide high-speed Wi-Fi for all households, community buildings and open spaces 8%

Playground Climbers 30%

Arden Pool/Repairs/Improvements 14%

New Outdoor Pavilion Communal Space with Arden Club 30%

Craft Shop Museum website for better access to our collection 22%

New ADA Woods Access in Sherwood Forest 19%

Wages for Zoom Sessions staffing 3%

Civic's Storm Water Mitigation Projects received the most support of 86%. Civic needs to apply for DNREC grants, and if they wait too long, then they will have to wait until September. Making it clear the procedure because they are bound to a grant procedure. A joint decision between Forest Committee and Civic Committee as to which way to move forward with this. Bottom line: Civic is going to look into getting the DNREC grant started in conjunction with the ARPA money and the Storm Water Management Plan, which should be finalized in the next two weeks. Steve would like to know in what kind of a circumstance do they present a final report. The implementation is the part they need to start working on even before the plan is presented because they might need to submit grants right away.

- Permits / Reservations
  - Reservations & Permits Calendar has not been finalized yet.
  - Delmarva Power inquired if they need a permit to move meters at 1801 Inn Ln. No permit required.
- Maintenance Projects
  - Trash Can Enclosures

The treasurer put the cost of enclosures in last year's budget. He had to cancel that check and he informed Civic that it must be in this year's budget. Harold and Ken Morrison are going to be doing it soon as the weather permits.

- Steve read an email from Skip Bailey, Town Treasurer, confirming that Dave Claney is an employee of the Village and Civic can continue to give him work and bill the town. If Dave is no longer interested in working for Civic, then they need to find someone else. Carol recommended Keith Johnson, Baltimore (Bev Barnett uses him but we took a long time to pay him) and Wayne Hull and his son as a potential contractor.

Storm water drains/catch basins - Steve went around to survey their condition and he found half were already clean, some were partly clean and other completely blocked up. Steve is doing it himself and he is hoping more people will adopt their own local drain.

- Tree Work - Ed and Carol will do a walk around and survey it.
- Greens
  - BWVC Requests trash and yard waste - Carol sent a note to Betty about trash policy. That if the garden group fill up trash can, then they should take can to curb. Carol did not receive the written plans/specification as requested by Civic Committee to install lighting along main entry path.
  - Ivy clearing Most is in the wood.
  - Field Theater Cleanup is minor and will be in the spring.
- Seasonal Contracts
  - American Grass start removing the sticks in April.
  - Heidi Hoegger sent a picture of ice covering Meadow Lane near her house. Rick was supposed to follow up on this but Steve hasn't heard

from him yet. Carol said the picture captures how the trucks are running up on the left-hand side and the gully is causing water to pool and freeze. When this happens, Heidi goes out and breaks up the ice. The other side they were trying to cut the brush back so she could get water into the woods on that side. They were cutting that brush back so Brian Burslem could dump the snow and maneuver better with his truck snow plow attachment. He doesn't like to get his truck scratched. On the picture she writes "It's time for a storm weather drain".

Adjourn 8:50 pm