

Archives minutes 8-11-21

Via **Zoom conference** and attendance at the Museum due to Covid-19 Stay at home and social distancing

Attendance:

Arden: Lisa Mullinax; chair, Sadie Somerville; secretary, Barbara Macklem, Maria Burslem, Elaine Hickey

Ardentown: Allan Kleban, Melissa Parsonson, Beverly Hawkins

Ardencroft: Mary Brent Whipple

Robin MacDonald; volunteer, Vicki Scott; **Volunteer,** Ellen Dolmetsch; **Volunteer**

Note: bold names met on Zoom

Museum sitting schedule for August and September on hold

Emergency event

On Wednesday evening, August 4, the museum Curator, committee members, volunteers and board members rose to the occasion when a malfunction in a sprinkler head in apartment above the museum caused a water issue, which leaked into the museum space. Fortunately our curator and several volunteers were at the museum and they quickly took action to protect all of the collection. Thankfully, the collection was not damaged and is all accounted for. The entire collection is undamaged, safe and secure.

The fire alarm sounded, the fire company came and the sprinkler system and alarm were shut off.

The cause of the sprinkler malfunction has not been determined. A remediation company was called in immediately to dry out the carpet, walls and ceiling that were affected.

The insurance company was called and the insurance adjuster will come Friday, Aug. 13. Repair work will take place in the apartment above and in the museum to replace/repair the carpeting, walls and ceiling where damaged occurred. Therefore, the museum will be closed for remodeling until it is fixed.

We will hang a sign out "Closed today- check our website" for more information.

Abby will write a blog post about the impact of this emergency event and Barbara will write something to put in the September Arden Page

A couple of **emergency recovery kits** will need to be prepared for any future events like this.

Barbara will send out a list of items needed for them and committee and board members can contribute to help us fill them. It was suggested that we have an emergency training for all museum volunteers. Ellen suggested we print out what to do and put in our notebook on the front desk.

Arden Fair:

The museum will not be open in time for the Arden Fair. A separate booth at the fair was suggested but there are staffing issues. Lisa is working at the info booth and will hand out free ACSM brochures and display samples of other museum sale items that can be purchased on our website.

October exhibition opening:

The museum may not be ready for our October 17th exhibition opening. We may have an idea of a reopening date in time to put it in our annual campaign letter.

Annual Giving Campaign Letter:

Have letter ready September 8, go to print week of Sept 20, stuff envelopes Sept 29 or 30 mail by Oct 1.

Shakespeare Gild will perform Sept 17,18, and 19

Barbara spoke to Tanya Lazar and explained that the museum community room will not be available for them to use. Allan will let Catherine know it will not be available for costumes and bathrooms.

WHYY TV has been filming for a piece on Arden's history, architecture, gardens and arts to be aired in early 2022. Another producer is working on theater and music.

The museum will be able to embed the finished show on our website.

Civic Committee: Beverly will explain to Steve that we may be putting the historic plaques on hold for now. Sadie will send information to Mary Brent and Elaine on what they are looking to do for the Soldiers

memorial, Walt Whitman Memorial, and The Fels Oak. Text for plaques and material that signs will be made from. Discreet, low key.

Robin and Barbara said they identified the location of the Soldiers memorial, it is where the trees and benches are now. The cedar stump that still there on that corner of the green is from an old flag pole that was cut down in the 1970's.

Curator Acquisitions:

Deed of gift was made out during the emergency event last Weds. For archival material with image of Frank Stephens on the verge of the Delaware Single tax campaign. **Accepted**

Lisa Carney email: For 2 Leander Leitner paintings and a signed Nearing book
Which belonged to Edith and Earl Brooks **accepted**

Advertising material for the Arden Fair including Milk cartons and a box from Arden Export Ardentown Edmund Hurlong's dental factory Accepted

Note **Buzz Ware also used the name Arden exports

Ephemera- Candlelight Theater, Covid -19, a book Untold Stories the experience of school integration Anderson family, Arden and Claymont schools integrated **Accepted**

Sadie's report:

Oral history:

Hans Francke has been using the digital recorder the archives

He has successfully completed oral history interviews with

Helga and Burley Melton.

Edmond Bischoff

Pat Philips

All are transferred to Otter.ai for transcription. He has edited and corrected them

Meanwhile, **Jena Gilbert- Merrill**, our summer intern from Winterthur is continuing to conduct oral histories

She has completed:

Annde Solway

Mike Curtis

Linda Toman

Ellen and Jack Dolmetsch

She may not have time left before school starts again to do Maria and Allan Burslem.

I encourage anyone on archives to help with the interviews and perhaps take up where Jena has left off.

Rose Valley conference and Arden tour:

Arden is participating in an event to be in Rose Valley the first weekend in November (6/7th), a 2-day symposium kicked off with a dedication of a new Will Price Pennsylvania state historical marker outside Thunderbird Lodge (Museum) along with lectures by George Thomas, Ryan Berley and Jim Spates, a John Ruskin scholar from Geneva, NY (see his blog here: <https://whyruskin.wordpress.com/>) The intention of the weekend is to link Will Price back to the roots of John Ruskin, William Morris, etc. as well as the lecture series. Barbara Macklem will be giving a talk on Arden on Sunday and Arden is hosting a walking tour on Monday Nov 8 at 10:30 with lunch.

We will need volunteers to help with the tour and set up.

Monday November 8, 2021

10:30 AM: "You are Welcome Hither": A walking tour of Will Price's Arden 1900-1916. We will start at the Gild Hall with a brief introduction and then tour the village on foot, enjoying the exterior designs of Will

Price homes (private homes) Luncheon and a visit to the Arden Craft Shop. Beautiful boxed lunches catered by Janssen's Market

Sadie will send out information on the conference to archives committee when the brochure is finished. If anyone interested in attending and or helping with the walking tour on Mon 11/8

Abby **School records** with personal information 1935-1965 turn over to the Delaware Public Archives. Records 2010.006.001 report cards and 2010.006.003 roster of students to de-accession **Agreed**

Allan has a signed copy of **Jaboti by Lena Hurlong** to donate if the museum does not have a signed copy.

For Ardentown exhibition: painting of The Candlelight theater by Janet Williams 24 x36 approx size at the theater, maybe borrow for exhibition?

Mary Brent asked about showing items donated and identifying who gave them to **encourage others to think about things they might have to donate to the museum.**

Not enough space for storing everything, Cannot show everything in collection all the time, to do a comprehensive exhibit with so many disparate items would be difficult.

May do an exhibit when we get Robert Foote collection?

Our sympathy and thoughts go out to Pat and Ken Morrison for the sad death of Ken's daughter Lindsey.