

Arden Civic Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022
Buzz Ware Village Center Hybrid meeting

Attendance: Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, Ed Rohrbach, Rick Farrell

Call to Order 7:35 p.m.

Election of Committee Chair

The committee members unanimously voted to reelect Steve Benigni as Chair.

Since all members have participated in town government, they are familiar with Freedom of Information Act and Conflict of interest policy. and they agree if they need to refresh their memories they can be found on the line.

Approval of March 23, 2022 Minutes. Minutes approved based on the following changes/additions: Provide attendance list. The transportation working group update midway in paragraph read “this year Civic has chosen to focus”. It is not “Civic” but it is the “Task Force working group”.

Categories

- Administrative
 - Cancellation of Special Meeting
 - Budget Priorities

Last year \$21,500 budgeted funds not spent that’s partlys due to a \$10,000 reserve for potential snow plowing end of season. A suggested strategy going forward is to plan and be ready by queuing up projects by February. Also, the Storm Water Plan has a big capital project that has some element of funding, and needs to keep it going and build on that plan.

The amount of work needed beyond the yearly \$18,000 MSA funds has two parts: repairs that are necessary and the “wish” list of road work.

Esthetically, it is not as pleasing to see patch quilt of repairs that were done overtime as when you see a whole swatch that is continuous. If the residents are interested in elevating the property value of Arden, then the paving should look like a continuous community. Being “good stewards of limited resources”, Civic Committee has addressed problems with the resources that are available and they will continue in this manner.

- Roads / Paths

- Paving/Patching Priorities & Schedule.

Smith Paving and Richard Cropper both do pervious paving and both will be considered for potential work.

Rick recommends immediate patching of the pot hole located to the right of 2207 Orleans Rd going towards the light at Harvey Rd, because that is a major intersection that is much utilized. At the next Civic meeting, Rick will present an overall Road/Path repair and repaving plan.

- Concrete Gutters

- Mill Lane

Half way down Mill Lane on the right-hand side the guttering stops. Storm Water Management Plan suggests finishing it all the way to the bottom to Millers Lane, and do a cut out on the Hoopes’s property (2212 Mill Lane). Rick will obtain an estimate from Smith Paving Company.

- Meadow Lane

On Meadow Lane where one concrete gutter leads off taking it to the next place. Carol suggests an engineering drawing down near the bridge area.

Barbara Shippy (2214 Walnut Lane)

Water is gushing diagonally across Inn Lane and Apple Tree Lane that flows directly onto her property. There is no lip and it has a strange crown. The master plan suggests a planter but, in the meantime, Steve believes there needs to be a short-term solution, (gutters or a lift) that takes into consideration the next-door property and the water that runs down Apple Tree Lane. Rick will follow up for contractors' estimates and their recommended solutions on paving, concrete gutters, curb stones made of organic field stone, or an engineer's solution. Rick believes by diverting it from Shippy's property it is being pushed down the lane in which it may handle the volume differently and dissipate in a non-flood like condition. Right now, it is like the confluence of the current volume is hitting Shippy's property.

- Path Signposts - It's a work- in- progress by Ed.

- DELDOT Harvey & Orleans

DELDOT wants to install a ramp/platform and a sidewalk that curves around the corner to make it ADA compliant. Their engineering drawings and specs do not address current water flow problems nor do they provide details like: curb height, where the water is flowing, no mention of the catch basins that are currently failing, elevation, etc. Safety Committee and Civic Committee are concerned that this installation will turn that corner into a lake. They want to see more detailed drawings that address the current water flow problems. They suspect that it might be beyond DELDOTS scope of what they are willing to do. The work is scheduled for the fall and they plan to pursue this for more details. In the meantime, Civic Committee and Safety Committee will share their concerns with Jeffrey Politis, who is the point person.

- Bid to Clean Out Catch Basins

Cory Cook of Advance Ecology L.L.C. proposed to clean off grates by lifting them up and clean out on a regular basis. Waiting for a bid from him. After a heavy down pour Steve observed that a number of catch basins were clogged with either Sweet Gumballs, and leaves, which were diverting water around several of the catch basins. Two catch basins on Harvey Road are always clogged up. Strongly recommend catch basins cleaned in the spring and in the fall and, possibly, a third time. Since neither party is clear as to when, the committee will provide guidance to the contractor so that everyone is clear on committee's expectations. By addressing these three times they believe they will significantly mitigate the issue. For now, the plan is to obtain a quote based on cleaning three times a year along with a report detailing what they found; then the committee will know how to budget for it the following year. Also suggested that catch basins clean out might be augmented by street sweeping. The idea is if you sweep the streets, then less goes into the gutter. Steve pursued this once before, with no one returning his calls. The bigger issue for now is to address the drains, because the drains are most problematic, especially when there is a high volume of precipitation that moves things faster than they can dissipate when they get in the system. Then there are blockages and it accumulates. If this doesn't work, then they will consider layer the system with street cleaning.

- Trash Tech
 - Service Issues & Meeting

Today the trash was not picked up until early evening instead of this morning without a heads- up that there would be a delay. The Civic Committee believes that Trash Tech should have the courtesy and the ability to administrate and manage by at least extending a courtesy call to

Steve, the contact person, who is taking the heat, so he is aware of the problem and he can get in front of it. That said, Steve believes they are working hard to address these issues. Nonetheless, he will remind them that this is essential.

Civic plans on placing an article in the Arden Page to explain the problems Trash Tech are trying to overcome with staffing, training and familiarizing themselves with the community layout and its people. The note should include a reminder that they were selected because they were more economical and the committee believes they are capable of providing the service. However, they need to be held accountable. Civic wants to give them benefit of the doubt that they just might be a victim of what most companies are going through right now. Finally, the community also needs to do better because some are not following the yardwast guidelines of not bagging their waste with plastic bags.

- Projects / Grants

- ARPA Submission/ DNREC & Other Grants

Forest Committee submitted detailed information as to what they were planning to do in the Watershed E project. They worked out a timeline as to when to apply for grants, how much ARPA money they would apply for, and they worked out the ongoing grant cycles. They are trying to leverage DNREC money with ARPA money so they can maximize potential grant funds to apply for.

- Permits / Reservations

- BWVC Request permission to install a “Little Library” in front of the BWVC on The Highway on the side of the parking lot with the rock. They chose the rock area so it did not interfere with grass cutting. Civic agrees

they need their permission because it is on the Sherwood Green. Civic Approved.

BWVC also requested to set up bubbler water fountain for birds inside the garden area. They will run the electric line underground from the BWVC.

Approved.

◦ Eagle Scout Project Request

Maggie Clarke-Fields requested for her Eagle Scout project to set up or install a Gaga ball pit.

Description - Gaga ball pit is **a fast paced, high-energy sport played in an octagonal pit**. The more players the better! Dubbed a kinder gentler version of dodge ball, the game is played with a soft foam ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees.

Types - There are portable and stationary pits, different shapes, sizes, different materials, etc.

Location - Edge of the basketball court behind the BWVC. Steve has details.

Funding -: Civic is not responsible for funding. Maggie Clarke-Fields is planning on fund raising. Suggested she fund raise first and reports back to Civic on the amount raised. It's a modest amount needed and the families and resident probably will be more than willing to donate.

Responsibility - Civic Committee believes it is Playground Committee is responsible for equipment and maintenance.

Approvals - At this point BWVC and ACRA support this but Civic needs more information before they approve it.

Civic needs the following information:

Flag location (Steve has one)

Drawing and building specs

Need to understand how this affects the Arden Fair set up.

Civic Committee is supportive of the concept. Civic will give tentative approval for the next phase, which is still in the planning phase and will maintain approval at each stage. They will send it over to Playground Committee and Arden Club for their approvals.

- Maintenance Projects

- Trash Can Enclosures

They have been installed and fit well. Civic believes there is no charge and that trash Tech donated them.

- New Handyman

Need a job description because Safety Committee is also looking for someone and maybe both committees can utilize the same handyman. This person must have access to transportation and tools.

- Field Theater

Ed recommends: fix one section of cedar fencing, paint columns and benches. Let Shakespeare know what will be done. Also, Shakespeare is schedule for a show in mid-May. Advertise for volunteers first then obtain a proposal. Oil stain would preserve the wood.

- Tree Work

- Fels Oak

Mulch was spread around Fels Oak per professional recommendation. Two people at the Town Assembly did not agree with this.

- Greens

- American Grass pick up sticks. Civic will work out an arrangement to remove sticks, not on a scheduled basis, but on an as needed basis.
- Seasonal Contracts
- Miscellaneous
 - 2203 The Sweep (is at the bottom of the Sweep near Harvey Road and it borders the Milkyway Path from Phil Fisher) their fence is falling down into the pathway. Some complaints from residents. Ordinance 11 make this Safety Committees' responsibility. Steve informed Brooke along with providing her pictures.

Adjourn 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Resko
Village Secretary