

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

**Call to Order** 7:31 p.m.

**Approval of February 23, 2022** Minutes approved as presented.

### Categories

- Administrative

- Budget

Civics' budget is under by \$21,500 if Carol submits her invoices by tomorrow, but if invoices are not presented, then budget is \$23,500 in the good, plus \$2,400 MSA funds available.

At the Governance Task Force meeting someone asked why does our Fiscal Year end in March? There's a timing issue in that Civic has to set aside approximately \$10,000 for last minute snow plowing. Another reason is the residual effects of a harsh winter. Some of the things that could deteriorate the road won't present themselves in the first quarter of the new year. It takes until the second quarter often to really understand. The paving part of the budget will almost always have to work with the first part of the budget. Now that the Water Management Plan is complete, Civic will be better prepared next year to have a contingency ready for a grant match.

- Transportation Working Group Update

They are interested in adopting Wilmapco's Walkable Community Program.

It's an educational seminar that encourages people to walk the community paths and areas to familiarize themselves as to what is the pedestrian transportation system like, and what are the challenges that are involved. This year the working group has chosen to focus on the intersection of Veal Rd & Harvey Rd because that is such a difficult place to traverse. They plan to set up a meeting either at the Ivy Gables or the Candlelight Dinner Theater and, as a group, do an actual walk around town. This program is at its beginning planning stages.

- Roads / Paths

- Paving/Patching Priorities

Rick is interested in getting together with Ed Smith to compare notes about some road conditions that he would like to address for the upcoming budget. By next meeting he is planning on presenting a cost estimate for paving based on \$2/\$3 per sq. He has been given the go ahead to make necessary repairs when needed.

- Concrete Gutters

Ed points out that the stone curves are a legacy of the WPA program and, therefore, he suggests that they not be ripped out and replaced with concrete. Civic agrees. If it needs a drainage solution, they will look at multiple options on a case-by-case basis.

Also, Meadow Lane has areas where there are disconnections of no gutters system because of the pitch and because of the confluence where it meets Pond Lane, and because of some of the flooding issues they have had in the past. Suggest it would be a better solution to have a gutter in that area. Rick will obtain an estimate from Ed for this and an estimate to extend the gutter down to Mill Lane per Storm Water Management

Plan. Specifically, what the plan calls for is to continue the gutter, but to put a break so the water can flow out into a brand-new BMP, where there is a bio-retention garden.

- Path Signposts  
Ed Rohrbach is working on fixing sign post. It turned out to be more complicated.
- Trash Tech
  - Service Issues  
A lot of conversation on social media about Trash Tech services. Steve does not like being called out personally on social media and being wrongly accused of things he had nothing to do with. He has been taking a lot of the heat because of Trash Tech's management issues. He has been trying to get the word out that Civic committee does not monitor social media and he is requesting not to use his name on social media. He sent a letter to all three Arden town representatives to inform them that if it is an individual leasehold problem, call Trash Tech directly. If it is systemic, then contact the Arden Civic Committee at [arden.delaware.gov](http://arden.delaware.gov) website. If there is a trash problem in Ardentown or Ardencroft, contact their representatives. Maybe he will post this information to the Arden Page.

The three Arden representatives have scheduled a meeting with the Trash Tech management to discuss the various residents' concerns about their service. One of the major issues are complaints about comingling recycling, trash and yard waste. Trash Tech has trucks with two separate bins. Maybe it looks like it is going into one place but it is not. Not sure what is actually happening. Their practice might be that someone on site makes the call to not separate because it is determined to be contaminated. This would appear to someone less familiar with what they are doing that they are putting recycles in the wrong place. Need to determine what their practice is. That becomes an education issue to the residents as to what goes into that container and what doesn't. The other education component could be an explanation that Trash Tech could provide the Ardens with the narrative that says these trucks are dual trucks and you will see what looks like things going into the same place in one truck, but it is not. Civic is trying to figure out a way to educate all on how to recycle, how to prepare yard waste. The current recycle flyer is not that clear on what to recycle. For example, the flyer reads "no small pieces of paper" but does not define small. Probably Trash Tech has some marketing material that they could provide. One of the considerations to discuss at the meeting is maybe they need to amend the contract for a probationary period to give them time to correct.

Other issues have been that someone had their trash bin taken away. It could be because they were using their trash can for yard waste, and they probably did not want it used in that way. Another person who lives on Harvey Rd is putting their cans out on Orleans Rd due to traffic and unsafe conditions on Harvey Rd.

- Projects / Grants
  - Storm Water Management Plan  
They need to finalize their bid for ARPA money in the next few days. A meeting is scheduled with Jim Sullivan of DNRC and perhaps Drew to talk about how they feel that funding from DNRC would work for some of these projects. They are looking at two types of grants: Planning grants and Implementation grants. Civics original proposal was

a combination of planning and implementation monies out of ARPA or one of two projects: E watershed or J watershed. Now they think they would like to redesign their request for ARPA Planning Grants. ARPA funds towards several Planning grants with the thought of having them implemented down the line. Planning grants are matching grants and ARPA would be perfect for matching funds. They want to make sure the projects chosen qualify and are eligible for the ARPA funds from an audit perspective. Civic likes Watershed E project not only because it would be effective but it also would be a good demonstration of some of the technology that is available to individual leaseholders. The community can be a part individually by installing their own rain gardens and replace driveways with porous paving.

The group discussed the following watersheds in order of desired grant funding with a demonstration aspect to it:

#### E Watershed Overview

Beginning at the top of the E watershed is The Pump Path, a wide walkway that joins Mill Lane. The road is asphalt paving, and it is believed the upper parts of this watershed flow toward Mill Lane and then quickly run downstream to Mill Lane. Once at the intersection, the stormwater runoff combines with that from Wind Lane and quickly travels down the steeper slopes of Mill Lane. To respond to water quality impairments within watershed E, this plan suggests to implement porous paving from Harvey Road to Wind Lane (Pump Path) to capture and slow down the run-off from higher up in the watershed. (Note: The Pump Path is located off of Harvey Rd., which is adjacent to Brooke Bovard's leasehold at 2105 Harvey Rd.)

The second recommendation is bio-retention garden BMP E2 at the southwest corner of Wind Lane and Mill Road/Mill Lane. This corner is where stormwater appears to combine and gain momentum downhill along Mill Lane. Reducing the intersection radii and implementing a BMP at this location would benefit drainage by slowing the stormwater flows higher up in the watershed and allow time for pollutants to settle out.

Third recommendation is installation of bio-retention garden BMP E3 midway along Mill Lane is proposed on leaseholder lands (Hoopes Leasehold at 2212 Mill Lane).

Also, to install modern catch basins.

#### Watershed J Overview

This watershed continues south into Ardentown and, the majority of the stormwater is directed, via roadways, to Lower Lane where it connects to the storm drain system of Watershed C. The catch basin system along this road appears to connect to the Harvey Road system which appears to be overburdened during large storm events. BMPs implemented in this watershed would aid in reducing demand on the downstream drainage network.

Recommends to change the public parking lot of the Craft Shop to a porous material which would aid in reducing pollutant transport from the lot. The lot appears to be at a high point to the surrounding areas such that its unable to treat surrounding areas. By lowering the lot slightly, some additional pollutant capture of portions of Millers Road

may be possible but further investigations would be required to determine the extent of regrading needed.

At the bottom of the water shed the south side gutter to get to Lower Lane the valley gutter was extended through a landscape island at the intersection. Recommends within the limits of the landscape island a bio-retention garden be implemented to treat the run off for water quality impairments.

#### Watershed G Overview

The primary roads within the watershed include Orleans Road east of the Harvey Road intersection, St. Martins Lane, and the portion of Millers Road that falls within the watershed. The watershed also contains Grocery Path, a foot trail between Little Lane and Orleans Road.

Grocery Path appears to concentrate runoff toward the south side of the watershed, with much of the upstream stormwater going through the backyard of 1900 Millers Road. These three areas that connect via drainage infrastructure outfall into Arden Woods. Surface flow to the catch basins appeared stable. An additional drainage network that originates from the outdoor theater outfalls close to the St. Martins Lane drainage network and a swale has formed connecting it to the same outfall location where they combine and travel to Naamans Creek. The flow path to the creek appeared eroded.

#### Watershed C Overview

The recommendations for this watershed would be the same for all others, to capture and slow water higher up in the watershed; given the length of storm flows through this watershed this methodology will assist in reducing downstream drainage concerns. With this concept in mind, nine (9) BMPs are suggested within the watershed. These projects would be highly visible for anyone visiting the Arden's. Good demonstration for the town to show the technologies that we as a town and individuals could implement on their leasehold. There are some problems with watershed C in that it is expensive. Part of an area it is not known if there are rocks underneath and might complicated it.

- DNREC & Other Grants
- Permits / Reservations
  - Reservations & Permits
    - Need to coordinate parking events now because Concert Gild are scheduling events and Swim Gild opens soon.
- Maintenance Projects
  - Trash Can Enclosures
    - Trash Tech will provide the trash receptacles but not sure if they will bill for them.
  - Shakespeare Is replacing lighting at the Field Theater at their expense.
  - New Handyperson no response. They handyperson will need to have access to tools and a truck. They would be an employee of the Village due to insurance.
  - Fence post at Stile is broken. Ed will replace the rail.
- Greens Mulched Fels Oak.
  - Tree Work - Carol arranged to spread a layer of oak leaves, monkey balls, and fresh mulch around the Fels oak
- Seasonal Contracts

- American Grass Did a lot of clearing of ivy and leaves. They cleared Filed Theater of leaves, monkey balls from the edge of the Village green.
- Replace some damaged Azaleas down at the Stile.
- Steve spoke to Seth van Neerden of American Grass to revise the contract to include collect sticks every other mowing but be flexible at the end of the season so the last mowing is the major clean up.
- . Miscellaneous
  - Webmail Problem was a google problem that has been resolved.
  - Request from Cookie Ohlson due to her health and age she can no longer maintain the island at Harvey Rd and Little Lane and she can no longer trim the weeds on her path. The right of way belongs to the state but Brooke Bovard, Chair of Safety, instructed the state not to do it. Civic cannot do this because they can't do it for all leaseholders and because it is her leasehold to trim her own weeds. Civic thinks it would be good idea if there were a group of volunteers to assist the elderly in trimming. Cookie when she was able, she took care of the island and the town benefited. It would be nice for the town to volunteer now to help her. They believe the town does owe the seniors something for their years of volunteering in general. Even if it was a senior who was not active and lived in the community for a while, it takes a Village.

**Adjourn** 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Resko  
Village secretary