

GTF: Ordinance and Policy Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Attendees: John Scheflen (via Zoom), Kate Threefoot, Bev Clendening

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM.

Kate presented information related to Ordinance 3. She met with Jeff Politis and provided a summary of information shown below.

Executive summary from Jeff Politis

- LSF (Local Service Functions Budget....)= Planning + Code Enforcement + Police
- The rate for each component of LSF is per assessed value (land + improvements)
- Total County Tax obligation is General Operating Budget + LSF
- Treasurer fills out Local Service Function Application to claim credit for services provided by Arden rather than New Castle County. In 2019, these included (1) Recreation Programs, and (2) Operation of Local Parks.

Kate will read the relevant sections of DE Code to make sure that Ordinance 3 refers to the correct section of the Title 9 Delaware Code. Bev noted that under the services that are transferred from the Village of Arden to NCC, #1 includes trash and garbage collection but this service is provided and paid for by the Village. This needs clarification.

Recommendation: Create a policy that defines the person responsible for filing the above-mentioned application to claim credit for services as well as the timeline and procedure for this process.

Bev presented information regarding Ordinance 4. The present version of this ordinance was adopted in 2010. No changes appear to be necessary. Section 8 states that “the Civic Committee shall establish rules for the commons...and the Forest Committee shall establish the rules for the Sherwood and Arden Forests” It also states that these rules will be posted in several places in the Village. Bev is not aware of any posting. She has queried Carol Larson about this. There are no recommendations related to Ordinance 4 at this time.

John reported on Ordinance 5. Enforcement of this ordinance is complicated by the subjective nature of the restrictions, i.e. “excessive or unreasonable noise” may be defined differently by different individuals. More objective definitions (decibels) could be recommended. The State of Delaware has a law; NCC has an ordinance which includes decibel levels which depend on time of day and other parameters. There are exceptions to all rules. Arden could choose to enforce a more objective noise ordinance, but this begs the questions of who undertake noise

measurements and who would enforce the ordinance. We noted that a time frame for “quiet” was defined only in terms of the barking of dogs. The 10 PM to 10 AM rule would not be practical for other types of noise, for example, construction. The committee would like to ask for opinions of all GFT members before moving forward with recommendation on Ordinance 5.

We change the date of the next Ordinance and Policy Sub-Task force meeting to June 9. At this time Kate will present Ordinances 6 and 10, Bev will present Ordinance 11 and John will present Ordinance 7.

The meeting adjourned 8:26 PM.