

Community Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes for June 15, 2022

Present: Jennifer Borders, David Gerbec, Ron Meick, Pam Politis, and John Scheflen.

Meeting was called to order at 7:21 PM

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Vacant Housing Ordinance: The committee discussed the current state and possible changes to the ordinance including how to handle complaints and how to penalize owners who have not been paying the fines on their vacant property.

The Akutowicz property at 2007 Harvey Road was discussed. The current leaseholder pays land rent but has not paid fines related to the ordinance. The property is not being maintained. The committee discussed whether the Trustees or County should be involved. The County would have to condemn the property to begin to collecting fines.

In April, Cecilia Vore provided a list of unoccupied properties. The committee agreed to divide the list and determine which houses are still vacant.

The committee is considering revisiting the ordinance to clarify what qualifies as a vacant property and to make it easier to enforce.

Government Task Force: John provided an update. In addition to reviewing and updating existing ordinances to reflect updates to Delaware's state safety code, the Task Force is considering how the new/updated ordinances will be enforced.

Transportation Working Group: The group will begin search for a consultant to help steer the project. An RFT has been sent. On August 4, 2022, the group will hold a public meeting to discuss the intersection of Harvey and Veale Roads.

Arden Town Meeting (6/27/22): John will present the committee's report which will include a recap of the ARPA meeting and updates on current projects.

Old Business: Follow up to the ARPA meeting, Jen closed the loop with the lawyers and Skip Bailey (Arden Treasurer) will monitor the disbursement of committed funds.

New Business:

- What can the Community Planning Committee accomplish this year?
- The committee will continue to have representation on the Governance Task Force and with the Transportation Working Group.
- Develop a Community Planning policy statements regarding the following:
 - Promoting economic diversity in the Ardens
 - Aging in place

- Airbnbs and other short-term rentals
- Leveraging available resources within the community
- Lot splitting
- Consider hosting a retreat with the Trustees and the Advisory Committee for the purpose of generating ideas and strategies that will shape the future of Arden.
- Create a template for contracts with outside contractors

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.