

Community Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes for August 17, 2022

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:17 PM

Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Vacant Housing Ordinance: The committee agreed to give Liz Resco, Secretary of the Town Assembly, approval to notify the Monfort and Akutowicz families of fines due for their vacant properties.

Jen, Ron, and John are going to meet on August 23, 2022, to review the current list of vacant houses.

Government Task Force: John provided an update. The subcommittee focused on ordinance and policy updates has reviewed approximately 2/3 of existing ordinances and policies and will recommended changes.

A second subcommittee charged with considering updates to the charter is not meeting during the summer.

The task force is set to expire in the spring of 2023. An extension is being discussed.

Transportation Working Group: A consultant has been hired to help steer the project. The group held a public meeting on August 4, 2022, to discuss the intersection of Harvey and Veale Roads. A survey will be conducted to identify the key concerns of residents of the Ardens and the surrounding area.

Old Business:

- The committee discussed its direction for the coming year. Work on ordinances will consume a considerable amount of the committee's resources.
- 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. Jen agreed to raise the question at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee,
- Pam agreed to take the lead on creation of a template for contracts with outside contractors. The Government Task Force will provide recommendations.
- Distribution of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was discussed. It was agreed that each committee that received ARPA funds will be responsible for providing updates on its projects.

New Business:

- **ACRA Community Relief Fund:** ACRA worked with the Claymont Community Center to provide financial assistance to residents of the Ardens during the pandemic. The committee discussed possible ways to continue and perhaps expand the program.
- **Dog Park in the Ardens:** Members of the community have expressed interest in establishing a dog park near the community garden in Arden. The committee discussed conducting a survey or circulating a petition to gauge interest and identifying a team outside of the committee who will take the lead on this project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.