

Attendance: Carol Larson, Steve Benigni, Ed Rohrbach

Absent: Mark Wood, Rick Farrell

Call to Order 7:23 p.m.

Approval of November 23, 2022- Minutes approved as presented.

Categories

- Administrative
 - Contracts
 - Grass contract
 - A two-color code map was constructed showing recurring services (green) and special services (red i.e., *special cutting at the ball field end of the season, mulch after the last cut try to get leaves. One last mow). Mulch should not be put up against the tree trunk. The contract stipulates “no chemicals” are to be used in the town of Arden but it has been pointed out that vinegar is technically considered a chemical. With advanced notice, twigs will be picked up. They are going to pile them.
- Projects / Grants
 - SWMPG
 - Steve reminds the group of their agreed obligations. Carol and Bev are meeting in December and they'll keep Civic updated.
 - ORPT
 - Was approved and the contract was received today. Actual letter makes reference to” preliminary approval” of the Arden Gild Hall path. It is preliminary because the committee still needs to send in their certificate of insurance. Follow up on the next phase.
- Roads / Paths - No updates as of yet
- Greens
 - Damage
 - There is post construction mess left behind from a sewage trench dug for the BWVC (north side out to The Highway) that needs to be leveled/regraded and seeded, and from removal of a Linden tree in

which the soils were dumped back into hole. There also was significant damage to the parking area from club events and concerts

in the last month. Carol believes the main problem when parking cars the attendants direct them to park spot but there is no attendant to direct cars to exit. They exit in all directions, many drive over the curb. The mesh/grid does not cover the entire parking space but it helps to prevent ruts but it does not prevent the grass from being churned up resulting in muddy conditions. Right now, that area is a mess after the events over the last month and needs to be cleaned up, maybe aeration. For the future parking suggest install a visible barrier of some kind along curbside: a fence, boulders, something artistic, or heavy ropes looped through post with rings along the parking rows. TBD further.

Also, vehicles cut curbs on the Village Green. One place they cut curbs is across from Ed, and another corner is Woodland Ln and Inn Ln. resulting in deep ruts. Carol and Ed will evaluate how they can put the Village Green and the Sherwood green in shape for the spring and for the Arden Fair this year. They will approach the Arden Club about reimbursement.

- Trash Tech Services No updates.
- Permits / Reservations – No updates.
- Maintenance Projects
 - BB Cover
Ed will take care of the bulletin board cover when the weather permits.
 - Orleans / Harvey Collapse
Nothing has been done from DelDot as of now.
- Tree Work
 - Fels Oak
Carol submitted an invoice from Merton LaBare , the second arborist, in the amount of \$2,875 the breakdown is as follows: arborist consultation fees to assess the Fels Oak \$150. (Approved to pay

invoice), \$2,200 to remove the dead wood, crown reduction and clean, \$350 for a static support system for the Fels Oak, and \$325 for a dynamic support system for the white pine on Woodland Lane near the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial.

Cable needs to be checked yearly; it has not been done in some time. The current cable is in the wrong place and is not functioning. Recommends replace it with a steel cable support rod.

Also, recommends to mulch as far out as you can. By mulching all the way out, that would replace aerating and vertical mulching (drill down and fill with compost): a good mulch is equivalent. Keep away from trunk of the tree, do not over mulch and make sure the mulch is not treated because you want it to function as an organic substance.

- Ron's Tree Service Invoice

An invoice from Ron Tree Service was submitted to town Treasurer for payment in the amount of \$2,350 and was denied due to the towns \$2,000 expense threshold policy dated April 2010. The policy is as follows:

(Policy - Expenditures of Greater than two-thousand dollars (April 2010) All committee expenditures of \$2,000 or more require preauthorization of two officers of the Village prior to the commitment of Village funds. In case of an emergency – significant threat to persons or property – appropriate action should be taken as soon as possible with the committee informing at least one officer of the Village within 24 hours.) Posted to Village Website arden.delaware.gov/budget

Even though Ron's invoice listed four individual projects that were each approved by Civic, the total invoice billed exceeded \$2,000 threshold. Now that they are aware of this policy, they will inform their vendors about this policy.

- Miscellaneous Ordinances

The Governor Task force sent two proposed Ordinance changes regarding Ordinance # 10 Public Utility and Ordinance #6 Excavation Permits. They ask all to look it over. Civic will do a deeper dive after the task force comes up with their final recommendation.

Adjourn 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Resko
Village Secretary

American Grass Service Map

Stick Removal Upon Request

- Green: Regular Mowing / Trimming
- Red: Special Handling

