

Arden Civic Committee Agenda

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Attendance: Steve Benigni, Carol Larson, Ed Rohrbach, Rick Ferrell
Guest: Garret Colgan Snyder

Steve Benigni called meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of January 25, 2022 Minutes

Categories

- Administrative
 - Elections
Ed Rohrbach and Rick Ferrell will run again. Two new candidates: Garret Colgan Snyder & Walter Borders. Need 2 more candidate. Steve invites all to put a candidate statement on line. Reminder there is a 'Meet the Candidate' event on March 11th at 1 p.m. at BWVC and suggests make yourself available.
 - Budget Status
Steve reviewed and updated budget.
There is one month left in the fiscal year with a balance of \$30,000 out of their budget. They are in good shape and they need to think of projects. Some big projects that need to be taken care of: changing the catch basins and mountable curbs, the Storm Water Management Plan strongly suggests fixing the curbing to finish the right-hand side of Mill Lane which is severely eroded. This is not part of the ARPA grant.
 - Policies and Procedures Request
Governance Task Force has requested all committees to submit a list of all of their Policies and Procedures. Steve prepared a list for the members of the committee to review and to provide feedback for correctness, and to verify they have a complete list.
 - Tree Policy
They are in the beginning phase of drafting a tree policy that will be vetted by the Governance Task force. The policy would address such things as tree removal, certified tree arborists, planting native plants, choosing the appropriate trees for a specific location, tree pruning, etc. The village through the Governance Task Force is going to recommend a tree committee or a council that would be comprise of a representative from the Civic Committee, Forest Committees and the Trustees.
Hopefully by working together they could possibly obtain better prices for tree work. They would like a village assessment of all trees but as Carol points out that a professional tree inventory is very expensive so they are dependent on volunteers going out into the community to evaluate the trees. In summary a policy will be coming down the line.

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- Projects / Grants
 - SWMPG

The Civic Committee is maintaining an ongoing conversation with the residents who are affected by the Watershed E project in which they have an opportunity to express their concerns. The Civic Committee is planning on following Drew's plan and they will communicate this plan to the residents and to the community for feedback before they apply for implementation grant. Drew will meet with them in mid-May.
 - ORPT

ORPT is a matching grant of \$9,665 from DNREC to fix and remove bamboo from the Clubhouse path (Harvey Rd to Gild Hall). Bamboo removal will be in July or thereabouts. Steve would like to be versed in ADA compliance to make sure they meet grant requirements. The Clubhouse path repairs will segway with the WILMAPCO transportation plan which should be finalized shortly. One of the suggestions in the plan is to install a crossover walkway and if that happens, then Civic needs to consider what type of connector between the new crosswalk to the landing at the bottom of the path. Civic is interested in installing a fence or possibly retain Phil Fisher to design one of his signature fences so bikes do not go crashing out into Harvey Rd. From an aesthetics, as well as drainage, there is an interest to install pavers from the crosswalk to the landing of the path. They plan on sloping the path and installing a vegetation strip. Not sure if a survey is requirement of the Grant but recommend obtaining a survey anyway. In addition, they will find out all the grant specs/requirements.
- Roads / Paths
 - Cold Patching No updates
 - Resident Request (Orleans Rd.)

In the spring the group will do another walk around to update their master plan. They will specifically assess Orleans Rd in front of Walkers and further down on Orleans Rd in area of O'Regan's rental (between Lovers Lane and The Highway) for alligating. Also, asses a small section on Woodland Lane from Nordheimer's driveway down into the woods where it was never paved. It was paved from Green Lane to Nordheimer's driveway.
 - Mountable Curb Resource - Smith can do the work.
- Greens
 - Mat Expansion

Presently the mat goes to the middle of the big tree. Ron Ozer of the Concert Gild requests to have it extend from where it is to cover parking over to the sewage pipe. The club is willing to entertain thoughts of

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paying for parts of it. Since the original mat was installed as an experiment to meet the requirement that people want to see a grassy lawn, it has been viewed as a huge success. Smith Paving installed the mat and can provide the brand that was used. They will come back with some quotes and consider on making a final vote on it and see if Civic can obtain some funding. In the meantime, Carol will check out how far they can extend it. Rick did some research on alternate products and he warns to stay away from the concrete product that purports to grow grass through it because they provide a harder wearing course. All the reviews on the product were that it does not hold up well.

- Aeration / Conditioning Plan on a spring aeration.
Plan on a spring aeration on the Village Green and when it is appropriate, they will aerate the Sherwood Green. They can do the Village green aeration in March from the remaining funds from this year's budget. However, Sherwood Green's sewerage system just got fixed. So Civic needs to find out from BWVC committee what they plan to do to smooth down and seed. Seeding/aerating parking area still needs to be done. Arden Club is amenable in helping to paying for the fixing up of the grass in the parking area and might be willing to pay for some of the aeration on the Village green.
- Village Green Near Playground there is not much vegetation because it is very shady and it becomes muddy. Suggest to seed with shade tolerant grass. The area that is bare is between the playground and Millers Rd., Fells Oak and Woodland Rd. There is a lot of bare ground near the bench area. This is normal but Carol will take a look at it. Suggest mulch the Fells Oak area per the instructions and recommendation of the town Arborists. Another suggestion is to lime and then to over seed the lime and aerate. Steve will obtain a quote to seed from American Landscaping.
- Sherwood Fence/Barrier
The preference is a rock barrier instead of a fence on the side where people should not exit the overflow parking area. Suggest reflectors on polls, existing rocks, road because it is confusing when exiting in the dark. Another issue is after a concert is over there are no attendants to direct them out. Carol is holding off from tree replacement (dogwood) because she is waiting for finalizing the Master Water Quality Plan that has a garden earmarked for that area.
- Trash Tech Services No issues lately

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- Electronic Recycling
Larry Walker has expressed interest in reinstate the one day electronic recycle service which the county offers for free periodically. Need to clarify with Larry if he charges and how much?
- Permits / Reservations
- Maintenance Projects
 - BB Cover Ed will take care it.
 - Orleans / Harvey Collapse DelDot will take care of it when weather permits.
- Tree Work
 - Fels Oak
They trimmed a lot more than was expected but Carol vouches that she “trusts them explicitly” and Ed supports this. The cost for cabling the White Pine is \$325. 00 but suggests keep the White Pine as a possibility and group it with other work to keep cost down. They will keep an eye on it for splitting. One expert suggested to remove it because they tend to split and drop branches a lot. In addition, a resident expressed concern that a branch would come down and take the power lines out for a week.
 - Still have Lyndia Kolski branch to address.
- Miscellaneous
 - Connecting with the Ardens Update
 - Memorial Markers & Archives Committee
Steve spoke to Archives prior to Covid about signage markers for Soldiers and Sailor (Think this memorial was in memory for the soldiers who died in WWII) and Walt Whitman memorials (lilacs were planted for Walt Whitman). They are interested in going forward. They are thinking of having electronic tours. Civic Committee have offered some funding for plaques. Barbara Machlem requested on behalf of Archive Committee some help (anywhere from \$200 to \$400) and Steve agreed on behalf of Civic Committee who supports his decision based on a policy that if one group needs funds and another group has surplus, they can help.
 - Street Sweeping? Late fall would be a good time to sweep the streets. Steve will go back and try again to contact sweep cleaners for estimates. It appears the residents have pitched in to clean drains because Steve had fewer to clean this time around.

Adjourn meeting 9:30

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Resko, Village Secretary