

## Community Planning Committee Meeting

### Minutes for April 18, 2023

**Present:** Jennifer Borders, David Gerbec, Pam Politis, and Skip Bailey (guest)

The meeting convened at 7:15 pm.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** A draft of the minutes was approved.

**2023 Election Results:** Jennifer and Pam were reelected to the Community Planning Committee (CPC). Cookie Ohlson was also elected but declined the seat on the committee. At the next town meeting, Skip Bailey will be nominated to fill the vacant seat. Jennifer will continue to be the committee chair and David will continue as secretary.

**Governance Task Force:** John was absent, so there was no update.

The CPC discussed the following policies/ordinances:

- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** The current policy was discussed. No changes were proposed.
- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** The current policy for Arden does not reflect changes to allow electronic meetings (i.e. Zoom meetings) but similar rules apply. The FOIA policy for the state of Delaware was amended to allow a public body to hold a meeting electronically if specific notice and public access requirements are met.
- **Vacant Housing Ordinance:** The CPC discussed the possibility of applying a lien on a vacant property that has amassed more than \$15,000 in unpaid fines. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

**Arden Advisory Retreat:** The CPC discussed the four key categories addressed at the retreat to determine where to focus its efforts. Encouraging Volunteerism/Community Engagement was determined to be the top priority. The committee considered ideas to make it easier for residents to volunteer. Possible solutions include the following:

- Work with ACRA to develop a “legacy project” that promotes volunteerism.
- Develop training videos on the topic of how to be a committee member.
- Provide childcare at town meetings or other community events.
- Run a mock town assembly for kids in which they discuss an age-appropriate topic (e.g., playground related issues).
- Connect generations of Arden residents through mentoring and/or a “foster grandparents” program.
- Consider restarting the “Merry-Go-Rounders” program.

Aging in place was also discussed, but there may be opportunities to tap into existing programs offered locally by the Claymont Community Center or at the state or national level by AARP or other entities.

It was proposed that each Arden committee be required to prepare long-term goals relating to the key issues addressed at the retreat and to share those goals with the CPC.

**The Ardens Transportation Working Group:** Pam provided an update. On March 21, 2023, the steering committee met to review the results of a recent survey. A draft of the final plan is expected to be completed by May 5, 2023. The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2023. The plan will be presented as part of the CPC, Civic, or Safety committee's report during the June town meeting on June 26, 2023. The group will ask the Arden Advisory committee for guidance on when the plan will be shared and by whom.

**Old Business:** No old business was discussed.

**New Business:** No new business was discussed.

**Next Meeting:** The committee will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. The CPC's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.