

# Arden Civic Committee Minutes

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

**Attendance:** Steve Benigni, Rick Ferrell, Walt Borders

Steve Benigni called meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The approval of June 28, 2023 minutes was postponed until a future meeting because there were only two members from the June meeting in attendance, Steve and Rick.

## Categories

- **Administrative**
  - **Municipal Street Aid**

We have not yet received notification of the state's Municipal Street Aid allocation for the coming year.
  - **Request for Multi-year List of Expenditures**

Skip Bailey sent a report requested by Walt of Civic expenditures over several years. Walt will analyze the information and report back to the committee.
- **Projects / Grants**
  - **ORPT**

Steve tried to phone Jennifer Lieber of the state Architectural Accessibility Board but has not received a call back. He is awaiting reply to an email containing a revised information diagram of the project that he sent to Jennifer and copied Michael Tholstrup, DNREC's grant administrator. The email mentioned two accessibility issues: the pipe barriers, which will be removed, and a 7.5% longitudinal slope at the bottom of the Clubhouse Path, which will be converted to a 3.5% slope over the bottom 25 feet of the path.
  - **SWMPG**

Drew Hayes of ForeSite Associates met with Steve, Carol, and Bev Clendening to discuss alternatives to BMP #1. The current preferred alternative is a rain garden at 2102 Wind Lane. Water from the Pump Path will be directed under the existing fence into the rain garden, with the overflow located at the same point as the inflow location. We are working to obtain approval from the leaseholders, who have met with Drew and expressed an interest in the project.
- **Roads / Paths**
  - **MUTCD Road Markings**

Rick and Steve met with Ed Smith, Sr. and Ed Smith, Jr. about following state MUTCD standards with our road markings and adapting speed hump chevron designs to fit the narrow village roads and two sizes of speed humps (11 and 7.5 feet). The committee voted to authorize funds for the changeover to the MUTCD compliant design for the speed humps using nonreflective white paint. After the one-time changeover, future repainting costs should be similar to what we have been paying. The committee decided to use the existing arrow designs, but painted white instead of yellow.
  - **Patching and Paving**

The committee voted to implement a revised paving plan, which Rick worked out with Smith Paving. Rick and Ed Smith will also identify an "extra" stretch of pavement for consideration if Civic wants to spend additional funds on paving this year.
  - **Harvey and Orleans Intersection**

Ed Smith will also look over the existing path connecting Orleans to the ADA-compliant landing at Harvey Road and make a recommendation on addressing the waterflow/mud problem.

- **Greens**
  - We will monitor and address, if necessary, a muddy section of Woodland Lane that resulted from utility or other work at 2317 Woodland and a small section of the Village Green.
- **Field Theater**
  - The committee noted the deterioration of the stockade fencing and suggested that we work with the Shakespeare Guild and local artisans to consider creative functional alternatives to the stockade fencing as well as the chopped tree light pole. This could also create sponsorship opportunities individuals, organizations, or businesses.
- **Trash Tech Services**
  - Steve relayed complaints from reliable sources that Trash Tech has been commingling yard waste with household trash, even after we communicated our concern to our Trash Tech liaison. We will work with Jeffrey Politis and representatives from Ardentown and Ardencroft to bring up the issue with senior Trash Tech management as we begin the process of negotiating terms of the next contract.
- **Arden Construction Snow Plowing & Salting**
  - Rick will contact Arden Construction regarding next season's contract. Rick will insist that since there was no snow last season, the amount we paid as a retainer should either carry over and be credited to our account or refunded.
- **Maintenance Projects**
  - Steve will check the spring house to see how many fence rails are stored there. The committee will purchase additional rails to keep in stock and use as needed.
- **Tree Work**
  - Carol was authorized to have Ron's Tree Service remove invasive Norway maples and some scrub trees along the northeast edge of Sherwood Green as well as nearby cherry and dogwood trees that are in bad condition. Because we will be billed at Ron's \$3,000 day rate, Carol will ask Ron to use his judgement and expertise to identify any additional work that could be accomplished during that work day.

**Adjourned Meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Benigni, Chair