

# Arden Civic Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

**Attendance:** Steve Benigni, Rick Ferrell, Carol Larson  
Guest: Simon Hamermesh

Steve Benigni called meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of May 24, 2023 Minutes

## Categories

- **Administrative**

- **Electronics Recycling**

- We held a successful electronics recycling drop off this month. Thanks to Larry Walker for coordinating. Larry will submit receipts/invoices for reimbursement/payment.

- **Municipal Street Aid**

- Jeffrey Politis reported at Town Assembly that the village has submitted paperwork for the next Municipal Street Aid allocation.

- **Transportation Plan TA Vote**

- The Town Assembly passed a resolution endorsing the “Connecting With the Ardens” transportation plan. Ardencroft also endorsed the plan, while Ardentown postponed its vote until they can convene within Ardentown limits. This should only delay the next phase of the plan by several weeks. Steve or another Civic Committee member will likely continue to serve on the steering/monitoring committee.

- **Pipe Path Barriers**

- Steve reported on the TA meeting request from an Ardencroft resident that Arden remove the yellow pipe path barriers that block wheelchair access to the village’s six sets of barriers. In previous meetings, the committee had voted to remove all of the pipes, but on further consideration of safety and other issues, decided to look at reconfiguring the pipes or find other solutions that provided access and preserved safety. The barriers at the bottom of the Clubhouse Path must be removed to gain approval of the Accessibility Board for the ORPT grant funding. The transportation plan will likely include appropriate measures for the Clubhouse Path and Milky Way at Harvey Road. Steve and Simon will work together to identify temporary and permanent solutions for the six sites, possibly including reflective plastic bollards or other nonrigid barriers, zig-zag landings, and aesthetically pleasing designs. Pennoni Associates and WILMAPCO were suggested as professional resources.

- **Projects / Grants**

- **ORPT**

- Volunteers will soon begin to remove/treat the bamboo on the affected leaseholds. We will consult with the Accessibility Review Board and submit appropriate documentation prior to path construction.

- **SWMPG**

- **Steen Stormwater Meeting:** No communications or feedback was received regarding Jeffrey Steen’s second storm water management meeting, which was not affiliated with or sanctioned by the Civic Committee.

- **Watershed E:** ForeSite Associates met with representatives of the Civic and Forest Committees to discuss revisions to the Watershed E plans concerning BMP #1 in the Pump Path area. Utility company access to buried utility lines make the original plan for pervious paving on the path impractical. The committees are working with ForeSite and affected leaseholders to look at alternatives, which include rain gardens, pervious driveways, and possible enlargement of BMPs #2 and #3.

- **Roads / Paths**
  - **MUTCD Road Markings Standards**  
Rick reported that one-time transition costs to MUTCD standard chevrons for the speed humps are \$4,800 vs the \$800 quote for repainting with the existing design and color. Future repainting with the standard design should cost much less. Steve was concerned that the varying dimensions of our humps may make it impractical to use a single chevron stencil design for all of the humps. Rick will meet onsite with Ed Smith and Steve to more specifically determine what is involved in the transition.
  - **Patching and Paving**  
We will postpone paving and patching until the committee decides on the road markings. Rick will send out this year's suggested paving plan for July approval.
  - **Harvey and Orleans Intersection**  
Steve cleared the mud and grass from the paved path from Orleans Road to the new ADA landing. Committee members are to visit the site so that we can determine whether an additional pavement layer is appropriate.
  - **2118 Hillside Paving Extension:** (Tabled until committee members have visited the site.)
  - **Flooded Leaseholds Observations:** No action taken at this time. Committee members are to observe the sites during heavy rain events.
  - **Catch Basins**  
Carol and Steve will review the proposals submitted by Cory Cook of Advanced Ecology to clean and maintain the village catch basins and ask him for updated figures. Once cleaned, the committee may then have the structures evaluated professionally.
- **Greens**
  - **Overflow Parking Area (Policy & Plans)**  
The damage to the overflow parking area near the Buzz will be fixed by scraping, seeding, and aeration in the fall after the fair. The committee may initiate an internal village discussion of parking policy, which would subsequently involve representatives from the Arden Club and Swim Club.
- **Field Theater**
  - **Burial Ashes / Memorial**  
Steve reported finding a memorial or burial container that was partially uncovered at the Field Theater. We will cover it with topsoil, overseed, and monitor for further erosion or upheaval.
  - **Stockade Fence**  
Committee members are asked to observe the condition of the fence so that we can discuss repairs or replacement.
- **Trash Tech Services**  
Steve reported on a string of recent service issues, including a fluid leak from the truck's operation.
- **Arden Construction Snow Plowing & Salting**  
Rick will continue to serve a committee liaison with Arden Construction. No contract proposals have been received to date.
- **Permits / Reservations**
  - **Parking Policy**  
The committee confirmed that the Arden Fair and Shakespeare Gild performances are the only events with permission to park on the Village Green.
  - **Categorized Fee Policy**  
The committee postponed discussion on whether to charge a Field Theater use fee for Arden-related events that charge an admission fee, such as the Concert Gild's recent concert. We will report our recommendation to Town Assembly for any action it may wish to take.
- **Maintenance Projects**
  - **Millers Rd. Fence Rails**  
We need to find a volunteer or hire someone with a truck to replace the two broken fence rails on Millers Road near Marsh.

- **Tree Work**

- **Village Green Elm**

- Ron's Tree Service removed the Village Green elm tree that had split.

- **Tree at 2209 The Sweep**

- There is a right-of-way tree with a dead branch hanging over Lynda Kolski's driveway. Her preferred contractor would charge more than our contractor, Ron's Tree Service. The committee decided that if we are to authorize removal of the branch(es) and Lynda insists on using her preferred contractor, we would only fund the amount that Ron's would charge, and Lynda would be responsible for the remainder of the cost.

- **1904 Orleans Rd.**

- There is a partially-downed tree that is hung up on another tree. It is uncertain whether the tree trunk was on village land before it fell and whose responsibility it is to clear fallen vs. still standing trees. Carol will look into the leasehold's boundary line. The committee will discuss setting policy at a future meeting, but because of the pressing nature of this situation, the committee deferred to Carol's experience and judgement and authorized her to decide whether and when to remove or fell the tree.

**Adjourned Meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Benigni, Chair