

Arden Advisory Committee
Hybrid Quarterly Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2023

Attendance: Sachin Puranik, Jeffrey Politis, Skip Bailey, Elizabeth Varley, Simon Hamermesh, Cecilia Vore, Larry Walker, Carol Larson, Bev Clendening, Steve Benigni, Deborah Ricard, Lisa Mullinax, Ray Seigfried, Jennifer Borders, Helen Ohlson, Toby Ridings
Guest Dave Claney, Brooke Bovard

Advisory Chair, Sachin Puranik, convened meeting at 7:35 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Acceptance of previous Advisory Minutes.
March 2023 Advisory Quarterly Meeting Minutes Approved Unanimously.

2. Set Agenda for next Town Assembly: June 26
The following will be added to the standard agenda postcard mailing:

***June Hybrid Meeting post card must read “Observation Only”. Jeff will provide Zoom ID PW

- Visitors
Safety to present a motion to approve the WILMAPCO Transportation Plan.
A WILMAPCO representative will be available at 630 prior to June TA.
- Treasurer’s Report - Review Financial Policies
- Board of Assessors Report
Present Final Assessment

Committee Reports Descending Order

- Safety election to
Nominee to fill a vacant position.
- Registration Motion:
2nd reading: motion to change voting procedures defined in the Charter.
- Community Planning - Nominee to fill a vacancy

Motion to take legal action for arrearage for vacant dwelling

Motion for the postcard was changed after consulting with legal counsel to read:

"Motion to explore vacant dwelling legal action"

- Budget - Update on New Castle County Reassessment and will provide link for the Reassessment FAQ Brochure
- Good and Welfare - Library will be open during town meeting.
- Old Business - Schroeder Trust Update

Agenda approved for postcard mailing.

TYPICAL TOWN MEETING AGENDA:

2) Discussion of Items to be Listed on Town Meeting Agenda:

2a) Call to Order

2b) Approval of minutes

2c) Recognize New and Departed Residents - Frank J Heymann, Tim Donovan, Dianna Ricci (Ray Gerstein’s daughter), Aaron Hamburger, Mary Lockerman, Robert (Bob) Stith

2d) Visitors

Motion for a joint June Town Assembly

Jeff Politis presented a **motion** that the first part of the Arden town meeting will be a joint meeting with Ardetown and Ardencroft to listen to WILMAPCO’s (Transportation Plan) presentation and partake in Q&A session at which time they will separate. Unanimously approved. (Time frame: 15 to 20 minutes for Q&A. Agreed it is important to get the information out. If more time is needed, then vote to extend time.)

WILMAPCO Motion

The motion will be presented under the Visitor’s section of the agenda. The Safety Committee will present the motion to approve the WILMAPCO Transportation Plan as presented. For clarity this is a plan that is non-binding in that every facet of the plan has to go through another approval process because it will have to have plans and funding. So, each section will have to be approved. This is a concept plan. There will be opportunity within each

individual section to make comment. Brooke Bovard suggest that the motion include some mention of the approval of the concept plan and to identify the components of the further process. Civic, Safety, Community Planning Committees will figure out the specific wording for the motion and once constructed will send to all member of Advisory Board prior to the town meeting for review and feedback. Need some clarity about what is the process after the plan is approved? Hopefully, this will be address with the presentation.

WILMAPCO will be available at 6:30 before town meeting. Jeff needs to confirm this with them.

Each town will take responsibility for their own attendance sign-in log and they will provide the Arden town secretary with a typed-up list for insertion in Arden's town minutes.

2e) Officers/Trustees

- Town Chairman's Communications Report – Jeff Politis
- Trustees – Carl Falco
- Treasurer – Skip Bailey

Review Financial Policies. It's mainly a point of reminder. (A projector was set up in the past). At a minimum, Skip will read each policy title and provide at least 20 xerox copies. On the Village website main page under Policies Financial Policies 2022 first paragraph in error. Simon and Liz will assist Skip in correcting.

The GTF has determined that there are no guidelines on policies at the present time and they are in the process of developing one.

- Advisory – Sachin Puranik

2f) Assessors – Deborah Ricard

Present Final Assessment Report. Next public meetings: June 12@ 7 p.m., BWVC.

2g) Committees' Reports (Descending Order)

- **Safety** – Simon Hamermesh
Nomination to fill vacant position
- **Registration** – 2nd reading: motion to change voting procedures defined in the Charter.
- **Playground** – Mark Wood
Inspections ongoing. Equipment ordered.
There will be no discussion about interest in exercise stations. Update about ARPA funding. Update on Gaga pit.
- **Forest** – Co-Chairs: Carol Larson & Bev Clendenning

Carol Larson will announce in the Forest Report that Civic, Forest, Safety and Trustees are working on a tree policy; when it is developed, they will present it at the town meeting.

- **Community Planning-** Jennifer Borders
Nominee to fill a vacancy

2007 Harvey Road has been vacant for over a decade which has amassed approximately \$35,000 in liens that are in arrears. Community Planning would like to present a motion to approve legal action. They will craft a motion after speaking to the town lawyer. To address how would this work? The lawyer would file a lawsuit and get a judgement for the purpose to getting payment. If Judgement has been issued against the leaseholder and in favor of the town, and if the leaseholder/debtor does not pay, the town can satisfy that judgment by selling the house.

List motion on postcard.

- **Civic-** Steve Benigni
Not on Town Agenda. Just looking for clarification.
Concert Gild is using the Field Theater for one of their events that they are charging an admission fee. Steve decided not to charge them a fee this time. Since Civic oversees the Field Theater, they can develop a fee policy to be presented to the town for approval. Civic informed them that they cannot park on the green for this event. Generally speaking, parking on the Green is accepted for the Arden Fair and Shakespeare. At this point all other parking requests have not been challenged but would have a mixture of acceptances. Suggest Civic Committee determine is the Field Theater an appropriate venue for the Concert Gild?

Civic will present refreshments for the June Town Assembly

- **BWVC** – Toby Ridings
- **Budget** - Co-Chairs are Deborah Ricard & Garrett Colgan-Snyder
Update on New Castle County Reassessment & a Brochure will be posted on Village website. The brochure tells you what the data collectors are looking for. You do not have to let them into your house. They want to know the year the house was built, general construction materials, visible condition of the exterior & interior, number of bathrooms and bedrooms and types of heating and cooling systems. There are only 18 data collectors for all three counties in Delaware (approximately 250,000 parcels).

Reassessment information will be posted in the Arden Page as well as at a brochure to the Village website.

- **Audit**- Helen “Cookie” Ohlson
- **Archives**- Lisa Mullinax
- 2h) Governance Task Force– Ray Seigfried
 - Ray will provide update on the progress of the GTF.
- 2i) Old Business
- 2j) New Business
 - Jeff will give an update on the Disaster Emergency Plan.
- 2k) Good and Welfare
 - People can stand up to share their news: graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, etc.
- 2l) Adjourn
- 3. Old Advisory Committee Business
 - Schroeder Trust Update. A final draft that will be posted on line for people to review beforehand. Will talk about it sometime soon.
- 4. New Advisory Committee Business
- 5. Guest Comments & Questions
- 6. Adjourn **9:26** p. m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Resko,
Village of Arden Town Secretary

Next Hybrid Advisory Quarterly Meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m. @ BWVC