

Arden Advisory Committee
Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2023

Attendance: Sachin Puranik, Jeffrey Politis, Skip Bailey, Elizabeth Varley, Simon Hamermesh, Larry Walker, Bev Clendening, Steve Benigni, Deborah Ricard, Lisa Mullinax, Larua Wallace (Auditing), Bob Erenburg (budget), Steve Tanzer (Registration), Mary Young

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

Purpose of this meeting: The Village secretary received notice that a petition was coming and on July 6 received it. The petition called for a special town meeting to present a motion to approve application of speed cameras on Harvey Road. The Charter allows for any resident of the Village upon obtaining twenty-five signatures to petition for a special town meeting. The Charter also says that the town secretary is the one to call a special town meeting and it is her job to set the date. The Village Chair contacted the petitioner and tried to encourage him not to file the petition because it was not clear on what could be done at this time. According to DelDot there is nothing the Village can do at this point until they put an application process in place which could take anywhere from 6 to 12 months before anything will be known as to what to do. Irrespective of this, Warren did not want to hold off on petitioning a special meeting. Therefore, a special meeting will be held to make a motion that has no bearing with anything to do with speed cameras by approving an application that does not exist. That is why the Chair was trying to figure out what is Warren trying to do? The Chair feels that one could argue that the purpose to the petition is inappropriate because there is nothing to do. The latest update from Peter Haig of DelDot is that it is more difficult than originally thought to install speed cameras. It is much more complicated than what is being implied in terms of an application. It's beyond the application process and it is irrelevant for this meeting. Jeff will be more than willing to discuss this outside of this meeting based on his conversation with Peter Haig. It's entirely more complicated which Jeff expressed he would have liked to have figured this out prior to this petition filing.

Because the petitioner believed the secretary ignored his petition, he filed a second petition one (July 25) that not only called for a special meeting but it included setting a special meeting date of August 14th. Irrespective of what the petitioner thought, much time was spent seeking legal counsel and contacting DelDot. Other considerations

were trying to make sure the people who need to be present were available, it turns out August 14th three of the officers would not have been available and the Village Chair and/or the Advisory Chair would need to Chair the special meeting. The secretary was also in the process of creating a meeting with the appropriate number of people and was concerned about holding a meeting in July and August because many people are on vacation. The charter does not provide a time frame to set a date but all agreed to try to be in the spirit of the Charter by trying to figure out an appropriate date. In order to facilitate this, the secretary requested the Advisory board to hold a special Advisory meeting to help her determine when do we think it is an appropriate time to get the maximum number of people relative to our regular scheduled quarterly September town meeting.

Comments

Bob Erenburg says that the Village should be moving on this by developing the process, and develop the applications so they can be first in line. Once this becomes more open and people know about it, they will also want it.

Steve Tanzer suggests schedule special meeting immediately prior to the regular quarterly September Town Assembly because nothing we do is going to have any legitimate impact on the process. It doesn't mean the Village will be first in line. Nothing the Village does will hasten the process. They are going to move forward with this. Because we can't do anything because there isn't a process in place. Jeff said this was suggested to the town attorney who advised not to schedule it then, (it's not illegal) but because we should abide by the charter as best we can.

Steve Benigni recommends an information Special Town meeting and suggest how can we be first in line to apply. Skip Bailey thinks the special town meeting is limited to the scope of the motion and I believe all were in agreement.

Special Town Assembly Meeting Agenda

The members of the Advisory board agreed to hold the special town meeting on August 28, 2023, BWVC at 7:30 p.m. It will not be a hybrid meeting but will allow the secretary to zoom in order to record the minutes. Quorum requirements to approve a motion is 35 eligible voters.

Agenda: Single topic. Meeting would consist of opening the meeting and the motion will be read and seconded. Allow some discussion. Then motion to adjourn.

Decided not to have guess or visitors whether from DelDot, or a legislator to explain the law because legislation has been passed. Secondly, there is the question would we

be able to get a quorum. Because this is important, recommend have visitors attend one of the regular quarterly town meetings. Also, not sure how productive it would be to attend this special meeting because it is very constrained, limited circumstances as to why we are meeting. It would be nice to have more information but if there is no quorum, nothing can be done. All agree no visitors.

Postcard with motion will be sent ASAP.

Meeting adjourns
Respectfully submitted,
Eliabeth Resko
Village secretary