

## Advisory Quarterly Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

**Attendance:** Jeffrey Politis, Elizabeth Varley, Larry Walker, Carol Larson, Steve Benigni, Deborah Ricard, Helen Ohlson, Lisa Mullinax, Toby Ridings, Steve Tanzer, Ray Siegfried, Jennifer Borders, Simon Hamermesh

Guest: Bob Erenburg (Budget Committee member), Jessica Colgan-Snyder (Registration Committee member), Carol DiGiovanni

Arden Chair, Jeffrey Politis convened meeting at 7:31 p.m.

### AGENDA

1. Acceptance of previous Advisory Minutes. September 2023 Advisory Minutes approved as presented. The June 2023 Special Advisory meeting to approval is on hold.
2. Set Agenda for next Town Assembly (**Motion** to approve Agenda as read. **Motion Approved**).
  - o Advisory Committee Report  
Nominations for Committees & Officers *Submit nominees to:*  
[Advisory@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:Advisory@arden.delaware.gov)  
Motion: The Advisor moves to broadcast Town Meeting via zoom to residents through 2024.
  - o GTF – (*Present after Board of Assessor's Report*)  
Second reading changes to ordinance 1, 2 and 13 &  
First reading changes to Ordinance 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12
  - o Budget will put forth a motion to provide for continued village spending should the annual budget referendum fail.
  - o Community Planning will present 1<sup>st</sup> revised reading of Ordinance 15
  - o Forest – Update Tree Policy
  - o New Business  
Motion to place time limits on scheduling a Special Meeting when requested by petition.
- 2b. Approval of Minutes
- 2c. Recognize New and Departed Residents – Jamie Jamison, Jack Dolmetsch, Jeana Carey. In Memoriam will be presented.
- 2d. Visitors (none at this time)
- 2e. Reports by Officers and Trustees
  - o Town Chair– Jeffrey Politis  
Update on speed camera on Harvey Rd.
  - o Trustees – Elizabeth Varley
  - o Treasurer - Skip Bailey
  - o Advisory – Sachin Puranik absent

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Nominations for Committees & Officers by March advisory. Sachin will check with Registration Committee for a list of open seats to announce at January town meeting. All committee chairs need to have a list of candidates for March.

Upcoming events: Feb 4 – Meet the committees and March 9- Meet the candidates.

Motion: The Advisor moves to broadcast Town Meeting via zoom to residents of town through 2024. Motion was approved.

- Board of Assessors– Deborah Ricard
- Committee Reports (Descending Order)
  - All committees will provide an update on ARPA funds**
- Safety- Simon Hamermesh
- Registration- Cecilia Vore
- Playground– Mark Wood
- Forest- Co Chair Carol Larson & Bev Clendening (absent)
  - Presentation of revised Tree Policy
  - Forest will provide refreshments.
- Community Planning– Jennifer Borders
  - ARPA deadline for new application is February 16<sup>th</sup> (information is on the Village website). Committees need to determine the amount of money they need to complete their projects due to time constraints and in order to determine the amount of funds that will be available to allocated to new projects that will be voted on at the March town meeting. A process to identify new projects and obtain approval by the town is already in place.

First revised reading of the Vacant Housing Ordinance 15. (Cecilia has officially resigned but she (Registration Committee) is still compiling the vacant house list to submit to Community Planning who will investigate and then submit to Village secretary to mail out Vacant Housing notices per Ordinance 15).

- Civic- Steve Benigni
  - Trash Tec contract expires in September. Budget has requested that it be voted on in the March town meeting instead of September **in order to meet Budget’s June deadline and to avoid the chaotic situation of the last time.** The problem is it involves three villages, they have to obtain bids, and they are the only company that will pick up yard waste. However, there are some changes: they do not want to continue

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to provide yard waste services because of the volume and there is new ownership (new company name is SEM).

- BWVC Co chair Mary Young & Toby Ridings
  - Budget– Deborah Ricard  
Motion to provide for continued village spending should the annual budget referendum fails.
  - Audit – Helen “Cookie” Ohlson
  - Archives– Lisa Mullinax
- 2f. Governance Task Force– Ray Seigfried  
The Charter Task Force will present its final recommendation to the Town Assembly meeting.

Reading of Ordinances:

Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading Ordinances: 1, 2 and 13. Since Safety Ordinance 13 was read in its entirety in the first reading, Jeff will check to see if it needs to be read in its entirety again or just read the changes. Ordinance 1 & 2 will be rescinded. Therefore, no reading is required.

First (1<sup>st</sup>) reading Ordinances: 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12. (most will be rescinded).

Ray will get back to Jeff to determine the time required to present and discuss Ordinances at town meeting. The timeline to read all Ordinances will be till January 2025

- 2g. Old Business  
Schroeder Trust - Jeff is planning to post the final updated draft, not looking for a vote. He will send it out when posted and he will try to encourage people to vote on it in the March town meeting.
- 2h. New Business  
Warren Rosenkrantz will present a motion to address time limits on Special Town meetings. "Moved, a Special Town Assembly Meeting be scheduled to occur within 21 days of receipt by the Secretary of Town Assembly of a valid petition requesting a Special Meeting."  
Warren wants to set up a piece of the process that the Governance Task Force has been addressing as to when a petition comes in, how long should we wait to address it. Also, need procedure to set up a special town meeting.
- 2i. Good and Welfare
- 2j. Adjourn

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3. Old Advisory Committee Business
4. New Advisory Committee Business

How to dispose of unsafe playground equipment. If it is the governmental decision because it is unsafe, then the governmental decision is to just remove them. As far as liability the question is why would we as a government entity in good conscience let somebody accept responsibility of equipment that has been deemed to be unsafe. Larry has requested that the town lawyer review this decision.

The next Advisory Retreat has chosen to select a topic from last year's annual retreat survey results on community building. Demographics was an important one in terms of how we change with the demographics which segways into demographics couched within Aging in place topic. Sachin will come up with a topic. The retreats are usually held in February. Last year's retreat was the first in over a decade. There might not be a retreat this year. TBD

The county is offering Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for a group consisting of 27 residents. It is comprised of five three-hour sessions. This is to help the town create an emergency response team. The goal is to springboard off of that into a number of other things as we become organized. Its community driven not chair nor committee driven.

At the March town meeting the Registration Committee will present a Resolution of Appreciation to Cecilia for her many years of volunteer service to the community.

The Village has now a credit card to be used for standard purchases.

Recommend that Sachin Puranik, Advisory Chair, update the Advisory website page. All committees are responsible to keep their webpages up to date.

Clay Ridings is overseeing the ARPA project to resurface the basketball court behind the BWVC. Before the resurfacing, Clay Ridings and Larry Walker will check to see if there is a buried fuel oil tank. If there is, it needs to be removed before any work is started on the court. Recommend to combine both projects on one proposal.

Jeff would be interested in a proposal for ARPA funds for backup generator for the towns' community buildings (BWVC, Gild Hall & Candlelight)

In general, not a problem with speed cameras on Harvey Rd. The main

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issues are that the state police have stated that they are only going to deal with speed cameras in work zones. Harvey Rd is a state police regulated road. The regulations stipulate that Municipalities needs to make an Ordinance to approve them as oppose to the motion that was presented for the August Special town meeting. The regulations require a 75- day minimum up to a year for use. They are leased not owned. They are not intended to be permanent. They are large like the size of a refrigerator sitting on the side of the road and that is for one speed camera in one direction. There is an upfront expense to Municipality that they may or may not recoup. You can't issue a ticket for the first 30 days. During that 30-day period you're not generating any income to cover the initial upfront cash layout. The cost at this time is an unknown since DelDot is still figuring this out. The law was written so that Municipalities can't benefit. If they could benefit, then they could potentially set up speed traps to generate revenue. It's to cover expenses and any amount collected over their expenses, goes to the state police. The best scenario for Municipalities is that they breakeven. It's not clear if it is a 50-50 split or the Municipality get reimbursed first, & if any money left over then the police would get paid (who also have expenses) or vice versa, police first, then Municipality. Also, the Speed study has expired. You have to have a speed study that shows the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 5 miles or more over the posted speed limit. WILMAPCO study showed it was 10 mile over the posted speed limit. A speed study is only good for a year. In order for the community to get a speed camera, a new study is required. There is no reason for DelDot to do a speed study since the state police are not willing to allow for a speed camera on their state road. None of this was discussed at the August special town meeting but it will be presented in Chairs Communications Report.

Bob Erenburg is going to form a task force to explore communication between Village governance and the residents to help him develop his ideas. The group will figure out how to achieve this goal and make recommendations to present to the March Advisory Committee to see if they are willing to take it up once they have a clear idea of what it is that he is suggesting. Should the Advisory Committee take this up, they will appoint the people to the positions of the task force because it is a non-elected group.

Lover's path has tree roots breaking through the asphalt. Civic Committee will check it out.

5. Guest Comments & Questions

6. Adjourn