

CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Ardencroft was called to order at 7:05 pm on November 18th, 2024.

The minutes of the previous September 16th meeting were posted on the ardencroft.delaware.gov website. The minutes of the September 16th, 2024 meeting were approved with no corrections.

GUEST SPEAKERS

None.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ben Gruswitz reported. The Village of Ardencroft now has a signed agreement with Awakened Heart to use their TV during our Village Assembly meetings. This agreement is specific to our Village and not available for non-Village uses.

We have been raising our hands to vote during our Village Assembly meetings to indicate our votes; however, according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, voice votes are sufficient. We do not have to count hands unless someone calls for it. Anybody can call for a tally, but we will move toward voice votes otherwise.

Secretary's Report

Jennifer Abernethy reported. Postcards were sent out with a reminder of today's meeting. The minutes were posted online on our ardencroft.delaware.gov website, where residents can find all meetings, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes, when applicable. Visitors to the website can find those documents under the meetings themselves. Go to News & Events (at the top), drop down to "Meetings & Events", and search for the Village event. Use the back button to find previous events.

For those who have chosen to go paperless, I sent out an email with an image of the Village Assembly meeting notification post card, with a reminder that the September Village Assembly minutes were on the website. Tonight's sign-in sheet includes a space for attendees to opt-in for paperless communication. The post cards included language to remind residents that they can sign up for paperless communication by emailing me at secretary@ardencroft.delaware.gov.

A resident asked if a questionnaire can be included in future minutes or sooner for those who don't attend the meetings and might be unaware of the paperless option for receiving information. The post cards do mention how to sign up for that option via email. Jenn will create something to add to welcome packets for the Registration Committee to make new residents aware of this option in advance of post card notification.

Treasurer's Report

Don Lipari reported. Don discussed the bolded line items at the top of the attached financial report (Operating Account, MSA Account, Interest on Savings, Total Funds). This period included a yearly contribution from MSA (Municipal Street Aid). This year the contribution was \$5,868, which is slightly less than the \$6,000 we expected. The Tree

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



Planting Grant and GoFundMe money came in before the fiscal year began, but it is included here since it was budgeted for this period. We are going to get another \$14,000 from DNREC. Administration costs were normal. Park Mowing was \$400. There were some refreshments served at the Tree Planting event on November 9th. We are paid up for trash services through December 1, 2024.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coordinating Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. The Coordinating Committee met on November 6, 2024. The Safety Committee vacancy has been filled, and Jeff Tindall is now the Safety Committee Chair. We discussed agenda items and things we'd like to put on the agenda for future Village Assembly meetings.

Environment Committee

Lisa Surbrook reported. We had an excellent turn out for our Tree planting event on November 9th. There were approximately 45 people during the event who came out to plant 50 trees and put up deer netting. These additional trees will be adding increased diversity to our forest and support a wider variety of insects, birds, and wildlife. There were approximately 10 different species of native trees that were planted. Right now they all have deer netting around them, which can be taken off in a few years. In the Spring, the trees will be really beautiful. Lots of them are flowering trees. The Environment committee thanks everyone for coming out to help in this effort. We will also need additional help in the spring to control the invasive plants around these trees. The areas have been cleared as best as possible, but those invasive plants will come back at some point.

A resident expressed concern about how dry it is right now and whether or not that's affecting the newly planted trees or if those who planted the trees are going to water their trees. The Environment Committee encourages anyone who wants to help, to water the trees. So far, Scott Bowers has been helping. During the event, a pump was watering the trees with water from the creek. If the drought gets too bad, the Village can use the pump, a hose, and a generator to water what's planted—which is a lot of work. Ben Gruswitz encouraged anyone who is interested in helping throughout the Fall to help water the trees to reach out to the Environment Committee at environment@ardencroft.delaware.gov. There is some rain in the immediate forecast, but it would be ideal if someone or some people were on call to help. The Environment Committee is considering posting updates on social media via Ardenistas (Facebook) or something similar, if there is a date planned for people to help water the trees. Another resident asked about the cost of gator bags that help water trees. That's a possible future investment that can be discussed further.

There are 2 new tree permits that have been submitted and approved. The Environment Committee is working on a Forest Stewardship policy. Lisa Surbrook is working on the policy for ArdenCROFT, and it will be reviewed to make sure it aligns with the New Castle County code. Our next events will be in April for Arbor day and the Earth Day Clean up. Details TBD. Ben Gruswitz briefly discussed ivy growing at the top of Sanctuary Path on Evergreen, where the trees were planted among. A winter event might be planned to

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



pull the ivy away from the new trees. Volunteers are welcome to organize these events; it does not have to be the Environment Committee itself.

A resident asked if the new trees are flagged. The 150 planted by Davey Tree Service have deer netting; the ones that the Village planted are tagged and have deer netting, except for a certain type of tree that doesn't need the netting but is still tagged.

Finance Committee

Lorna Lee reported. The Finance Committee has held 2 meetings. In September, we met with the Treasurer Don Lipari to learn about his bookkeeping practices. We looked through the recent income and expense spreadsheets, and inspected the physical checkbooks. All was in order.

7 people other than the Committee attended the October meeting to discuss land rent, including 2 of the Association Directors who provided very helpful information. The past 4 years of increased land rent has brought the reserves up to a comfortable amount, so the Finance Committee decided to recommend that the Directors make a small or no increase in 2025. However, this may need to change once the County property tax reassessment finally happens. The Directors will have a big job to figure out if the reassessment is fair or if some properties should appeal for a lower assessment. They may need extra information from leaseholders. The Finance Committee is ready to assist the Directors, if asked.

Thanks to the Secretary, Committee meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are getting posted timely to the ardencroft.delaware.gov website. Thank you Jenn.

Wyn Achenbaum collaborated with this report on behalf of the Directors regarding the recent Tyler Technologies assessments that many residents received in the mail a few hours earlier. Residents are asked to reach out to the Directors if their assessment looks high, since that will be worth appealing. We all benefit from people flagging high assessments. Residents can email their assessment information to the Directors, even if they think it looks okay. The Directors must look at every property separately online to find that same information. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the assessments take into account the land and size of the lots, even though we do not know the formula for these assessments. There was no separate line for land value in what residents received. Assessed value is not the same as market value, although assessed value is more likely lower. Again, reach out to the Ardencroft Association (Directors) with any concerns about high assessments. Their email address is info@ardencroftassociation.org.

Public Works Committee

Chris Raia reported. Regarding the Rocky Walk Bridge and the Curtis Bridge, the Committee is continuing to work towards funding for complete replacement. We currently have 50% of the funding for this through the (pending) DNREC ORPT (Outdoor Recreation Paths and Trails) Grant. On the Rocky Walk Bridge, structural joists have rotted, causing decking separation at grade, so this is a priority. On the Curtis Bridge, decking boards and one handrail are starting to separate from the structural members below, so this has become a priority. We might need to intervene more prominently than we were thinking a year ago.

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



Regarding the new creek tributary on Rocky Walk, the Committee [thank you to Wayne Knotts] is installing the fine gravel remediation in this area this week, as reported in the last Village Assembly meeting. This will effectively raise the ground level for walkers while allowing runoff to drain into Perkins Run.

The Committee is waiting until Spring, after the last frost, for the paving and pothole project. The cost for this project is high—all of the MSA funds that we currently have, so we need to find some more funding for that project.

The Committee is continuing to leaf blow the area to address drainage next to Greenbriar Path. Thank you to Scott Bowers, who is doing that.

The Committee has trimmed the sign overgrowth several times at Upper Greenbriar and Upsan Downs and will continue to do so.

The trail marker at Greenbriar Path fell over. Scott Bowers and Kevin Nemeth repaired it with a steel post base unit. If other posts fail in this way, the Committee has a simple fix.

A resident asked if Ardencroft (like Upper Greenbriar and Upsan Downs) will be getting bigger street signs with taller lettering like the ones on Harvey and Veal roads. The larger signs on Veale Road were installed by Chris Raia years ago. The answer is essentially a DelDOT question. The resident offered to reach out to find the answer.

Ben Gruswitz shared an update on the Grant status and discussed the Public Works 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project List. The DNREC ORPT Grant has not been secured yet, but we feel good about getting it. They are paying for about half of the items in the green and yellow section (see attached). The total cost for the Trails and Parks projects is \$70,000. The decision is pending for the DNREC ORPT Grant, but we requested a 50% match of \$35,000. We have \$16,200 secured from Village funds (regular and ARPA). We are seeking \$26,800 from state legislators' Community Transportation Fund (CTF), for balance of local match (\$18,800) and Village welcome signs on Harvey and Vale (\$8,000). There have been issues with getting grants for parks because the Village does not own that land, the Ardencroft Association does. Pat Toman helped with the approval process by writing a letter on behalf of the Association. Larry Lambert and Kyle Evans Gay may not have additional CRT funds to contribute due to the timing of this process, but Ben is also pursuing other avenues with Councilman Cartier, who is impressed by our revitalization process. Ben applied for a grant through Cartier and another Councilperson in the area. The next step is to meet with Deb Heffernan, a State Representative Chair of the Bond Bill Committee. We need matching funds secured by the end of December. If we do not have the \$35,000 to match the DNREC ORPT Grant, they will most likely match what we have.

Registration Committee

Linda Toman reported. The Registration Committee did not have a meeting since our last town meeting. However, we have delivered four Welcome Packets just today and we will be using our next meeting to put together more Welcome Packets. Our next scheduled meeting is February 10th at 3:00pm at the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



If you see new neighbors moving in next door or on your street, please help us out by getting a name and phone number for them, so that we can make a friendly call before visiting. It helps in both directions. They don't get visits when it's not a good time.

Safety Committee

No report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

75th Anniversary/Park Dedication

Dan Rubin reported. The inaugural meeting of the Committee took place on October 16, 2024. Committee members discussed goals for the Committee and tried to get a cadence for future meetings. Items discussed included a historical marker for Pauline A. Young Park as well as getting it recognized as its own subdivision to then be recognized by the County and the State as a separate park. We discussed reaching out to the Arden Craft Shop Museum to help increase content related to Ardencroft and leveraging any resources they have to take oral history interviews that we can include on our 75th Anniversary Celebration. The meeting also included discussion about the 75th Anniversary Celebration—when it would be, what it will look like. We are still in the early stages. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 5 at 7:30pm at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The Committee includes people who have been here for up to 35 years and those who have been here only a few years.

A resident asked about whom to contact should they have anything to contribute related to the 75th Anniversary. Residents can email anniversary@ardencroft.delaware.gov. Another resident suggested that the committee access oral histories taken when Ardencroft was put on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Committee is first (1) collecting names of individuals we want to contact and (2) developing/adapting a template for oral histories. The resident suggested reaching out to the State Historic Preservation Office in Dover for previously recorded oral histories that are not at the Craft Shop Museum. They should have an inventory as well as a template.

Ben Gruswitz clarified that the historic marker is for the Village and its role in the Civil Rights movement and desegregation. In addition, there would be an interpretive sign for Pauline A. Young Park that would talk about her in particular. They would both be at the park. The Committee would like to see/hear the proposed language for those signs.

Aging in Place

No report.

Archives

Mary Brent Whipple reported. On October 20th, there was the 20th Exhibition opening titled "Treasures of Childhood: Growing up in the Ardens." This was the 20th anniversary of the ribbon cutting ceremony held on October 27, 2004 for the Arden Craft Shop Museum. It was very well attended. Also, letters went out in October for the annual giving campaign.

This month at the Centennial of the Arden School, Barbara Maclem coordinated with the BWVC to mount a display of photographs exhibited chronologically over the years and gave the opening talk. The photos displayed came from the museum, the files from Connee McKinney's book, and were reproduced by the BWVC. This past Sunday,

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



11/17/2024, the museum had a posthumous display of Ardentown photographer David McClintock as a part of the quarterly Afternoon with the Artist.

There was a tour with the Arts and Crafts Philadelphia Conference attendees of thirty people who were divided into three groups with Craft Shop Museum Board and Committee members. The visitors said they were blown away by the experience and the community.

The University of Delaware plans to have three mini-exhibitions by students doing special projects, and it looks like there will be some graduate students doing some work at the museum as well this coming year.

Buzz Ware Village Center

No formal report. Ken Rosenberg noted that the Centennial Event for the Arden School was a well-planned, remarkable event.

Poultry/Livestock Policy

No report.

Transmission Lines

Ben Gruswitz reported. A request was sent to the Delmarva executive on November 11, after a vote to do so at the September 2024 Village Assembly meeting. Ben CC'd local and federal politicians in Delaware. Councilman Cartier and Representative Lambert are in support. Kyle Evans Gay's staff indicated likely interest on her part with a potential letter of support. Ben met with Senator Coons' staff today. Lisa Blunt Rochester's staff deferred to Coons due to their current transition. There is no word from Delmarva at this time. Ben is coordinating with Ardentown on this initiative.

A resident encouraged the Village to contact the State Historic Preservation Office for support. Mary Brent Whipple shared that they have been in touch with them, with little luck. The Office keeps saying their specialist for section 106 will help, but they haven't reached back out. That avenue will be pursued.

Soil tests were done this summer through University of DE, which showed high levels of lead in the soil under the towers. Delmarva commissioned a private company to create a report. We got a hold of that report, which indicates the soil contamination is well-above acceptable levels below 10 out of 12 towers between nearest substations. Crews are slated to do soil borings to plan where new structures will be located—disturbing contaminated soil in the process. Lisa Surbrook is sending a cease and desist letter on behalf of the Environment Committee. We just learned the project will extend north to the State line then over to the substation behind the Claymont train station. The project is along a series of three substations that ends in Claymont.

Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. Vaughn Byarm is the Safety Committee representative on the Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee. There are consultants conducting video counts at 7 non-signalized pedestrian crossings that will lead to more specific recommendations on what's appropriate to make crossings safe. The 7 locations are in the three Ardens; three are on Veale Rd (Sunset across to the Springhouse Path, West Greenbriar, and Lower Greenbriar).

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



Ben sent a letter on November 2, 2024 and a dozen letters of support to DelDOT regarding the resolution in January 2024 requesting the speed limit on Veale be changed to 25mph from Marini's/St. Edmond's to Harvey Road. DelDOT followed up today saying they do not recommend it, but Ardencroft can amend their resolution to request 25mph within the municipal limits of the Village. If there are no objections, Ben will make that update. There were no objections, so Ben will move ahead with that letter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance proposal: ban on new transmission line/tower infrastructure, impact fee for existing infrastructure

Jenn Abernethy read a motion for the second time: "I move that Ardencroft adopt the draft ordinance in the handout banning new transmission line/tower infrastructure near village housing and forests and levy an impact fee for their existing infrastructure." The ordinance [attached] was read in full.

Amy Pollock made a motion to amend the language of the ordinance, under bullet 2 of number 3 of "Annual Impact Fee" [page 2 of 2 of the draft ordinance]. "I amend that the Village of Ardencroft use the base rate for all 50, 267 square feet." A discussion ensued. This impact fee is not the same as a franchise fee, like what Verizon pays the Village. Further discussion ensued about the wording of "charged by the Ardencroft Association" since the Village of Ardencroft would collect the money. The original intent of the language is not to imply that the Association will collect the money.

Bullet 1 of "Annual Impact Fee" [page 2 of 2 of the draft ordinance] will now read as "An annual impact fee shall be levied by the Village of Ardencroft on Delmarva Power's, or their successors', existing transmission line facilities based on the total square footage of area 40 feet from the center of their easement within the corporate limits of the Village of Ardencroft, an estimated 50,267 square feet, based on geospatial data. A survey can be conducted to replace this estimate."

Bullet 2 of "Annual Impact Fee" [page 2 of 2 of the draft ordinance] will now read as "The impact fee will be based on the current base rate for land rent in the Village."

Bullet 3 of "Annual Impact Fee" [page 2 of 2 of the draft ordinance] will now read as "Impact fees are made payable to the Village of Ardencroft by June 1st of each year."

The motion to amend the ordinance language above passed unanimously.

A resident made a motion to amend the language of bullet 2 of "Environmental Impact" [page 1 of 2 of the draft ordinance] to add "and wildlife." It will now end with "residents, pets, and wildlife." ***The motion to amend the ordinance language above passed unanimously.***

The motion, as amended, for a "ban on new transmission line/tower infrastructure, impact fee for existing structure" passed unanimously.

B. Ordinance proposal: remove names of empowered committees across ordinances

Jenn Abernethy read a motion. "I move that various ordinances identified in the handout be updated to remove references to committees empowered to perform various tasks and that appropriate committees be assigned according to internal policy

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



or by resolution.” The ordinance language is attached. This change allows for the Village to change through resolution which committee is responsible for certain tasks, as necessary and agreed upon. For example, our new Environment Committee is now responsible for tree permits whereas Public Works used to be responsible. “Empowered committee” is a generic term as far as this ordinance is concerned. Specific changes to the language will happen, if needed, in the future. This ordinance is about replacing specific committees with “empowered committee” rather than changing the content. The other language of those ordinances can be amended in the future. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

NEW BUSINESS

None. For those who want to propose New Business at a Village Assembly meeting, please contact the Coordinating Committee to put that on the agenda at least 7 days in advance of the meeting, per FOIA requirements. The next meeting is February 17, 2025.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- Amy Pollock shared that the November 2nd meeting of the Ardens Ready group was well attended, which will make it more likely that additional training will become available. Keep an eye out in *The Page* for future offerings. Ardens Ready is also working in conjunction with UD and the Aging in Place Special Committee. The group is looking for those who have equipment available to use in an emergency situation and/or skills that can be used during an emergency. Those who do, please reach out to the group via their website at <https://ardensready.org/>.
- The Over 80s reception was well-attended. It included great conversation and history. Those under 80 are always encouraged to attend, bring food, and hear what our over 80s residents have to share.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14pm.

Submitted,

Jennifer Abernethy

Jennifer Abernethy, Village Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

| Page(s) | Item |
|----------------|---|
| 9 | 11/18/24 Village Assembly Meeting Attendance |
| 10 | Ardencroft Financial Report - 9/16/2024 - 11/17/2024 |
| 11 | Public Works 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project List |
| 12-13 | Draft Ordinance: Transmission Line Infrastructure |
| 14-16 | Draft Changes Removing Empowered Committees |

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



11/18/24 Village Assembly Meeting Attendance

Residents

1. Jennifer Abernethy
2. Lorna Lee
3. Ken Rosenberg
4. Linda Toman
5. Jerry Varela
6. Ricardo Lebeis
7. Mary Lebeis
8. Carol Saxby
9. Bruce Hamilton
10. Don Lipari
11. Joe Achenbaum
12. Wyn Achenbaum
13. Lisa Surbrook
14. Scott Bowers
15. Chris Raia
16. Mary Brent Whipple
17. Dan RUBin
18. Janet Williams
19. Jeanne Orr
20. Ben Gruswitz
21. Bob Pollock
22. Pat Toman
23. Amy Pollock
24. Waju Christie
25. Michael Wood

Guests

None

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024

Ardencroft Financial Report - 9/16/2024 - 11/17/2024

| Ardencroft Financial Report 9/16/2024 - 11/17/2024 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| CASH | | | | |
| Operating Acct | 53,915 | | | |
| Restricted ARPA Funds | 19,885 | | | |
| Restricted DNREC Tree Planting Grant | 15,351 | | | |
| Available Operating Funds | 18,679 | | | |
| MSA Acct | 71,811 | | | |
| Interest on Savings | 3,035 | | | |
| Arden B&L | 788 | | | |
| Total Funds | 129,549 | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | FY25 | |
| | This Period | Year to Date | Budget | Remaining |
| INCOME: | | | | |
| Arden B&L | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ardencroft Directors | 0 | 0 | 21,161 | 21,161 |
| Directors for Trash Collection | 0 | 0 | 27,300 | 27,300 |
| Comcast Franchise Fees | 456 | 933 | 2,054 | 1,121 |
| MSA | 5,868 | 5,868 | 6,020 | 152 |
| Other Grants & Contributions | 0 | 15,450 | 7,250 | (8,200) |
| Tree Planting Grant (DNREC) | 14,352 | 14,352 | 28,703 | 14,352 |
| GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations) | 999 | 999 | 1,000 | 1 |
| Verizon Franchise Fees | 0 | 148 | 620 | 472 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 21,674 | 37,749 | 94,108 | 56,359 |
| | | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION | | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | (98) | (970) | 1,600 | 630 |
| Chair's Discretionary | 0 | (30) | 1,500 | 1,470 |
| Delaware League of Local Governments Dues | 0 | (525) | 525 | 0 |
| D&O Liability Insurance | 0 | (3,198) | 3,250 | 52 |
| Secretary Stipend | (250) | (500) | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| Treasurer's Bond | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| Treasurer Stipend | 0 | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Website / email support | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| TOTAL ADMIN | (348) | (5,223) | 10,475 | |
| | | | | |
| COMMUNITY | | | | |
| ACRA | 0 | 0 | 880 | 880 |
| Arden Craft Shop Museum | 0 | 0 | 800 | 800 |
| Arden Library | 0 | 0 | 400 | 400 |
| Arden Page | 0 | 0 | 400 | 400 |
| Buzz Ware Village Center | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Fire/Ambulance | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| TOTAL COMMUNITY | 0 | 0 | 4,980 | |
| | | | | |
| COMMITTEES | | | | |
| <i>Environment Committee</i> | | | | |
| Tree Planting | (308) | (308) | 29,703 | 29,395 |
| Miscellaneous - Environment | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| Finance Committee | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Public Works Committee</i> | | | | |
| Miscellaneous - Public Works | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| Park Mowing | (400) | (1,600) | 2,700 | 1,100 |
| Parks & Recreation | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Snow Removal (MSA) | 0 | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Streets & Signs (MSA) | 0 | (560) | 5,000 | 4,440 |
| Trash/Recycling Collection | (7,452) | (11,754) | 27,300 | 15,546 |
| Trees/Paths/Maintenance | (130) | (620) | 7,000 | 6,380 |
| Registration Committee | 0 | 0 | 800 | 800 |
| Safety Committee | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| TOTAL COMMITTEES | (8,289) | (14,841) | 78,653 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | (8,637) | (20,064) | 94,108 | |
| NET | 13,037 | 17,685 | 0 | |

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 18th, 2024



Public Works 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project List

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Sign commemorating Pauline A. Young Park | |
| 2. | New Swing Structure with Accessible Swing | ORPT (DNREC) |
| 3. | Village bulletin board improvement | |
| 4. | ADA accessible picnic areas at each of our two parks | ORPT (DNREC) |
| 5. | Trash corrals for each of our two parks | + |
| 6. | Safety and decking improvements to the Curtis Bridge | CTF (DelDOT) |
| 7. | Replacement of the rotted Rocky Walk bridge | |
| 8. | Replacement of the handrails at the Sanctuary Path stairs | |
| 9. | Village welcome signs (2) at each Ardencroft entrance to the Ardens | CTF (DelDOT) |



Ordinance 12

Transmission Line Infrastructure

Purpose

High voltage electrical transmission lines and towers are, at least for now, a critical component of modern infrastructure that supports our way of life. However, the current alignment of transmission lines has caused years of unnecessary harm and avoidable risk in our municipality.

Findings

1. Environmental Impact:

- The construction and maintenance of transmission lines bisecting our forest ecosystem invite non-native and invasive species.
- The use of pesticides by power companies can be harmful to the ecosystem and the health of residents and pets.
- Existing transmission lines have contributed to extremely high levels of lead in surrounding soil, and new construction may disturb these contaminated areas.
- Materials used in the new towers may have unforeseen harmful impacts similar to the use of lead paint on the existing towers.

2. Health and Safety:

- Due to the proximity of existing transmission lines, residents are exposed to electromagnetic fields with intensities far above typical background levels, potentially harming their health.

3. Financial and Maintenance Costs:

- The proximity of transmission lines and towers to residences can depress property values due to associated risks.
- Maintenance costs for the village increase due to the presence of these transmission lines.

4. Legal and Compliance Issues:

- Delmarva Power has demonstrated willful disregard of their existing transmission line easement agreement in the village and backpedaled on prior agreements in a neighboring village.

5. Alternative Routes:

- Alternative routes exist consistent with nearly all the transmission line siting along the former B&O railway alignment that minimize proximity to residences and impact only the edges of low-quality forest areas already bisected by the railway clearing.
- Other alternative routes may also exist.



Ordinance

Now therefore, in order to protect residents along with our treasured forest ecosystems, it is hereby ordained by the Village of Ardencroft as follows:

1. Prohibition

- No new electrical transmission lines and tower infrastructure are permitted within the corporate limits of the Village of Ardencroft.
- Additionally, no new electrical transmission lines and tower infrastructure are permitted within 500 feet of Ardencroft residential housing units.

2. Definitions

- "Transmission lines" refer to high voltage electrical lines designed to transport electricity over long distances.
- "Tower infrastructure" refers to the supporting structures, including poles and towers, for transmission lines.
- "Residential housing units" refer to any buildings or structures used for residential purposes within the village boundaries.

3. Annual Impact Fee:

- An annual impact fee shall be levied by the Village of Ardencroft on Delmarva Power's, or their successors', existing transmission line facilities based on the total square footage of area 40 feet from the center of their easement within the corporate limits of the Village of Ardencroft, 50,267 square feet.
- The fee will use the current base rate for the first 10,000 square feet and an additional 70% of the base rate for any additional square footage charged by the Ardencroft Association or their successors as land rent to leaseholders in the village, subject to annual change.
- Impact fees are due by June 1st of each year.

4. Enforcement:

- This ordinance shall be enforced by the Village Assembly and any designated officers or agents.
- Any violation of this ordinance shall be subject to monthly penalties according to the village's ordinance on municipal fine structure.

5. Severability:

- If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

6. Effective Date:

- This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and publication as required by law.



Ordinance 4

Vehicles, Equipment, & Parking

...

Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicles, with the exception of assisted mobility devices, are prohibited from Village paths and parklands ~~and the playground of the Village of Ardencroft except by permission of the empowered committee~~ Public Works Committee...

...

Trucks And Heavy Equipment

No commercial vehicles or heavy equipment as described by County Code are permitted to park longer than twelve (12) hours period, without consent from ~~an empowered committee~~ the Safety Committee in the Village of Ardencroft...

...

Provision of Parking Spaces for Persons with Disabilities

...

~~An empowered committee of the Village of Ardencroft~~ The Safety Committee shall enforce the requirements of this ordinance. ... If, after thirty (30) days from the date of the warning, the individual or entity has still not complied, the ~~empowered committee~~ Safety Committee may apply for a warrant in the name of the individual or artificial entity...

Ordinance 5

Leaseholder & Village Street Frontage Maintenance Obligations

1) Overview

...

Maintenance of other village land, including cul de sacs, park land, paths, and forests, are the responsibility of the ~~Village and its empowered committee(s)~~ Public Works Committee (PWC). Unless otherwise approved by ~~the empowered committee~~ PWC, altering or destroying vegetation and other features on non-street frontage public land is not permitted and subject to fine.

2) Definitions

- a) ...To determine the extent of street frontage beyond leaseholds, ~~the Village~~ PWC uses the following calculations:

...

- i) Removal of dead, dying, invasive or other nuisance trees greater than 4 inches in diameter on street frontage land is the responsibility of the ~~Village~~ PWC. Per *Tree Removal* ordinance, contact a member of the ~~empowered committee~~ PWC to request removal.
- ii) ...



3) Oversight, Process, and Enforcement

Specific committees The Safety Committee (SC) and PWC are empowered to determine which leaseholds have plants or permanent objects that need trimming, cutting, cleaning, or clearing to comply with this ordinance and shall inform leaseholders and tenants, in writing, of their determinations.

In the event such notice from the empowered committee(s) the SC and PWC does not result in the required action within 30 days, the committee(s) is SC and PWC are empowered to have the work done...

Ordinance 6

Tree Removal

Section 1.: To balance the needs of the environment, safety, and other considerations, the Village of Ardencroft (Village) ~~the Ardencroft Public Works Committee (PWC)~~ oversees the removal of trees on public and leaseholder lands. The Village of Ardencroft (Village) prohibits any person causing the destruction or death of any tree, meeting the criterion below, by any means, including, but not limited to cutting; bulldozing, timbering, landfilling or debarking, without having prior written permission from the Village ~~PWC~~.

Section 2.c.: ...To determine the extent of street frontage beyond leaseholds, the Village ~~PWC~~ uses the following calculations:

Section 2.c.ii.: ...DelDOT is the authority to contact for tree removal on state roads, but the Village ~~PWC~~ can assist leaseholders in seeking DelDOT aid, if alerted to an issue.

Section 2.c.iii.: ...Fourteen feet from the street gutter is the general starting place for assessing street frontage boundaries along village roads, but for all areas, including cul de sacs, the Village ~~PWC~~ will use available information in lieu of survey markers to determine whether or not a subject tree is on a leasehold or within public street frontage.

Section 3.: The Village will ~~PWC~~ is empowered to oversee, and approve or deny, requests for tree removal through its empowered committee(s).

Section 3.a.: ...Permits are accessible on the Village Ardencroft Association website page, or by contacting any ~~PWC-member~~ of an empowered committee. Permits require the signatures of 2 ~~PWC-members~~ of an empowered committee.

Section 3.b.: For trees on non-leasehold Village land, defined above, contact the empowered committee ~~PWC-member~~ concerning problems with trees that are not on your leasehold. The Village ~~PWC~~ will address trees that are dead, dying, impeding visibility, or relate to other safety concerns.



Section 3. (continued): For trees on the boundary of leaseholds and public land, the Village PWC will work with leaseholders to share costs as appropriate.

Ordinance 7

Change in Leasehold Grade

1. Any change in leasehold grade in excess of one (1) foot (.3048 m) in depth and covering one thousand (1,000) sq. ft. (92.9 m²) in area or one thousand (1,000) cubic feet (28.3 cubic meters) shall not be permitted without written permission from the Village of Ardencroft Public Works Committee that has been signed by majority four (4) members of the empowered committee.
2. Any change in leasehold grade within twenty-five (25) feet (7.62 m) of an existing creek edge shall not be permitted without written permission from the empowered committee ~~Public Works Committee~~ that has been signed by a majority four (4) members of the committee.

The penalty for breach of this ordinance shall be a fine conforming to the Village's municipal fine structure, plus restoration of the affected area within thirty (30) days of citation of violation by the empowered committee ~~Public Works Committee~~.

Ordinance 10

Hunting & Trapping

... Trapping of rats, mice, and moles may be permitted on parklands, rights-of-way, and paths only after written permission is secured from an empowered committee ~~the Safety Committee~~. Humane trapping of other animals may be permitted by residents or leaseholders on their property with permission grants in writing by the empowered committee ~~Safety Committee~~.