

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
December 19, 2023
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus, P. Fontaine, , P. Marcus, R. Pelligrino, G. Rappaport. Webmaster Blake Rappaport. Trustee Liaison A. DiJusto.

The meeting convened at 7:30pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the November 28th meeting as amended. Rob made the motion. George seconds it. All in favor.

Amendments: Regarding the Beasley program, George asked it to be edited to read: "George had edited and helped produce a newsletter article written by Gary."

Gary asked if Andy DiJusto wanted his comment about not being happy with the village seal samples edited. It didn't seem to be answered either way.

Review Action Items: Item #117 Peter's attempt to work with a regional manager of Webster Bank on securing a donation. The formal request was previously submitted for \$250 and on December 5th it was approved. The check will be arriving soon. The initial idea was to use the funds to help pay for painting of the American Legion Building. Since the village DPW will do the labor and pay for the paint, we will use the \$250 for another project.

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

Peter welcomes Blake back and mentioned how he continued to assist the society even while attending college classes in France.

Peter has spoken to the village manager about hanging our banner on the village bulletin board. Currently, the ASVAC banner is up, but ours can go up after Christmas.

All have heard about the Riviera Bakehouse closing at the end of January. Matt would like to recognize this in an upcoming newsletter article and has offered to take the lead.

Concord Road School is expecting a new assistant principal on January 16, 2024. Her name is Tiffany Babb.

The Italian-American Heritage Celebration for 2024 will be held on October 5th and the society is planning to participate.

Membership (Peter)

We are at 151 members, 24 new. \$5,487 in dues. \$26,905 in additional donations.

Gary inquired where our new members were coming from. Blake says most are from the west coast or being connected to us via social media. We have 44 senior citizen members.

A discussion regarding increasing the membership fee for seniors occurred. Pete will do some research on what the neighboring historical societies charge and we will decide at the January 16 meeting.

Odell House (Peter)

The Friends of The Odell House have signed a contract for pre-design work of the museum. Amaze Design was chosen. They also did the work in Yonkers at Philipse Manor Hall. The contract amount is \$13,500 and is primarily for developing initial design ideas, e.g. conceptual drawings.

Susan Jainchill will be working with architect Steve Tilly to formulate drawings for implementation of her cultural landscape plan.

RW250 (Peter)

Irvington Historical Society has a virtual program scheduled on January 21st at 2pm. "Madam CJ Walker and Villa Lewaro."

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Nothing new to report.

High School Intern Sari Barnattan (Peter)

Ardsley HS Junior Sari Barnattan is with us and might be with us for two years. She plans to major in history in college and would like to help younger people find out more about our Ardsley history. Her idea was to use Instagram to communicate with them. Blake has created that Instagram page for us. She has put two items up thus far (Philipse Manor Hall). Blake requests that society members try to come up with ideas for future posts that will be interesting and help build an audience (Fun facts, pictures, etc.)

Winter Newsletter (Peter & Rob)

Sharon Colabello will do an article on Marty Engleman (her father). She plans to complete the article by mid-January.

No commitment has been received from Maurice Hyacinthe on an article about his father Henry. As mentioned, Matt will take the lead on an article on the Riviera Bakehouse.

2024 Calendar (Peter & Barbara)

The calendar has been printed and will be mailed (to those people who live outside the village) the day after Christmas. The local members will receive their calendars by hand delivery over the course of the next two weeks. Members in attendance got copies at the meeting. Peter thanked Rob for all his research and writing skills (and his wife Lisa for sealing the envelopes), Barbara, George and Pierre for their editing help this year. Barbara gets special thanks for all of editing and design work plus for working with Pete to put on all the labels and stuff all the calendars. Barbara also distributed some of the calendars to people and businesses in Ardsley. Peter says it looks good and is ready to go out to our membership. Gary suggested that we use some of the extra calendars to try and recruit businesses to be sponsors.

Programs (Peter)

Peter is still wanted back to visit The Atria. Peter will work on a walking tour program for them. Andy Di Justo mentioned that there was a recent staffing change at the Atria. The prior program director (Christina Repetti) has been replaced with the director (Kelly Antonini) from the Briarcliff facility.

It also was mentioned that Pierre's enhanced Jackie Robinson program video has been posted on our website.

Discussion

Gary presented an idea for the creation of our own You Tube video. We have done a better job moving into the digital age and You Tube is a big outlet. A discussion occurred with questions such as what is the purpose of the video and what should be in the video. The goal would be to develop a promotional video to help promote both Ardsley's history and our society, including our involvement with the school district (e.g. Middle School History Club). A 1- minute commercial that could end up leading people to our website and hopefully help membership. We can showcase historical sites and people. A longer 5-minute video could be done at another time that could be used for our presentations. More discussion to follow at upcoming meetings.

All members were asked to consider what we should include in the video (people, places, events).

Barbara promised to distribute the link to a recent short video she received promoting Villanova University.

Andy was asked to talk with George Malone (he records the Village Board meetings) to see if our project is something that he would be interested in doing.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion to adjourn and Barbara seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting date: January 16th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone