

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Public Library
April 24, 2024
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, B. DeAngelo, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, B. Priesser, G. Rappaport.
Webmaster Blake Rappaport

The meeting convened at 7:32pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the March 19 meeting. Rob made the motion. Pierre seconds it. All in favor.

Review Action Items--#123—No updated progress with Atria's new program director.

#124--still have to speak to Angela regarding her upcoming program schedule.

#125—Gary is keeping tabs on Advantage Archives regarding the Rivertown Enterprise.

Reviewed Jackie Robinson Program by Walter Schwartz on April 15th at the JCC in Tarrytown. Walter did a presentation on Jackie Robinson that was well-attended. Walter also visited the museum in NY City. Unfortunately, nobody from board was able to attend. Thanks to Walter for the invitation to his presentation.

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

On Saturday, April 27th, the inaugural art gallery showing will be held at village hall from 4pm-7pm. Carol Sommeffeld's works will be displayed until September 13th

On Sunday, April 28th, the community center will host the village quilting story at 3pm.

On May 11th, St. Paul's Church in Mt. Vernon will honor Susan Seal for her dedication to the Odell House. At 5pm

On May 18th and 19th, the Rochambeau Festival will be held in Yorktown.

On October 5th, the Italian/American Day will be held here in the village. It was rained out more than once in 2023.

The new principal of the Concord Road School will officially begin on July 1st. Her name is Dr. Vidya Bhat.

Membership (Peter)

We are at 134 members, 12 of those new. We have \$5,298 total dues and an additional \$764 in donations.

Last year, we had 152 total members. A discussion occurred regarding recruitment of new members. There is also a need for sponsors to renew their memberships. Blake will reach out to those who have not renewed again via an email blast. We are also considering sending out a survey to determine why people have not renewed their membership.

Financials (Peter)

Peter received a call from Trustco Bank regarding our CD maturing this week. We can come in 10 days after the maturity date to make future decisions about renewing the CD. There is a 3 month, a 5/6 month and a 13-month option with various interest rates. A discussion occurred. Members feel it best to stay with the shortest number of months at 4.4%.

Odell House (Peter)

Report on the current status is rehab is underway. Peter and Rob reported on a story of an historic quilt being returned to the Scarsdale Women's Club after being lost for 50 years. On May 8 Susan Seal will speak at the Women's Club about the women who lived in the Odell House during the 18th and 19th centuries. Reminder that Susan Seal is being honored at St. Paul's Church in Mt. Vernon for her dedication to the renovations at the Odell House.

RW250 (Peter)

Peter has been sending e-mails with upcoming event information. On Sunday, April 28th, Irvington is hosting a program via Zoom on Andrew Jackson Downing. He was an important landscape designer during the 19th century.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

The history club was featured in last Friday's "Sharing Success" email about their latest trip to The Old Dutch Reformed Church in Sleepy Hollow. The church was founded in 1685 by Frederik Philipse and it is the oldest extant church in NY State.

WWII Memorial (Peter and Rob)

Rob reported on the previously discussed plan that might be possible involving services from Paul Petretti and Ralph Denike. Ralph possibly could recreate the base and post. Paul was going to speak to him, but there are no further updates. Pete will try to schedule a meeting with Dr Schoenfeld to discuss this idea.

High School Intern Sari Barnattan (Peter)

Ardsley HS Junior Sari Barnattan has been active posting program information on our Instagram page.

Program for May 19th meeting

The annual meeting is May 19th. Barbara Davis, co-director of the Westchester County Historical Society will speak on Touring Westchester. We are still working with the fire department to try and secure their upstairs location for this event. Blake will try to talk with John Clear about assisting us in that regard.

You Tube Video Subcommittee (Peter)

The board reviewed Pierre's script for a future promotional video. A discussion occurred with many ideas from all board members. Gary and Pierre discussed what viewers should react and think about when watching. Since there is no deadline on this project, we will take our time to develop. A suggestion was made to involve the history club from the Ardsley Middle school.

WCHS History Hunt May 24-Sept 3

The 150th Anniversary of the Westchester County Historical Society is upcoming and Barbara Davis is reaching out to all municipalities to get input. She's asking for three sites in each place to be included for her program. Rob and Peter have submitted the requested documents for our 3 locations: American Encampment marker, Ardsley Train Station marker and Ashford Avenue School.

Election of Directors (Pete)

Barbara, Bernie and Andy Laub (who has agreed to become a director) are all up for approval. A vote was held for all three individuals to begin new three-year terms. Each member was approved unanimously. Steve Wittenberg will be ending his latest term as a director. He has been on the Board since 2013. He created the binders for the Calendars and Newsletters and maintained their contents. Both binders are located in the Ardsley Library and are accessible by all library patrons. He also took photos of the parks and plaques in Ardsley and created a photo album. He also took photos of the monuments and plaques in Ardsley and created a photo album. Both albums are stored in our archives. The board thanks Steve for everything he has done.

Next year, officer positions will be up in May. Pete has already indicated that he not run again for president of our society.

Archives (Gary and Peter)

No discussion

Inquires (Peter and Rob)

The Rotary Club of Hastings, Dobbs Ferry and Ardsley has their 100th Anniversary coming up and they are sending out requests regarding local artifacts. Our society will give them 20 news articles regarding their activities going as far back as the Babe Ruth event (1927).

Discussion

Gary discussed an idea for an on-line date base for our Wall of Honor. Blake had an idea for a QR Code on the actual Wall of Honor which will take you to information on all the individuals listed. Discussion occurred.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Bernie makes the motion to adjourn and Barbra seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Next meeting date(s): May 19th (annual meeting) and May 21st 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone