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

Attendees: M. Arone (late), G. Calvi, B. DeAngelo, P. Fontaine, A. Laub (late), P. Marcus, R. Pelligrino, B. Priesser, G. Rappaport and A. DiJusto

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm.

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the June 20th meeting. George made the motion, Bernie seconds it. All in favor.

Summer Newsletter: The newsletter is about the Revolutionary War markers together with a map. Everyone agreed that Barbara did an outstanding job with the newsletter, including helping Pete to affix the postage and mail them.

Military Tribute Banners (Aug 31): Sharon Colabello did an excellent job with presenting the new banners, including the banners for the 12 high school graduates who died in WWII; six banners were sponsored by the Ardsley Fire Department (Jamie Macri) and six banners by the American Legion Post (Efraim Hernandez). All 14 banners (for these high school students) will be displayed in a row along Heatherdell Road along with Arthur Silliman's banner (he fought in WWI). Rob and Pete gave Tim Lamorte (Enterprise) a tour of the American Legion Museum.

Mary Calvi's program on Teddy Roosevelt's first love (Sept 10) was very enjoyable; it was attended by 32 people (including 8 board members). Pierre saved the day by providing his personal laptop to display Mary's slides.

On September 15 Pete delivered a program to 22 residents at the Atria. The program was based on the program (Ardsley Community) that Pete delivered last year to the second graders at Concord Road school. The residents enjoyed the presentation very much. Andy DiJusto took several pictures of the event. Gary suggested that we ask if any of the residents would be willing to write about their personal history.

Review Action Items:

#116 - On July 25 Pete opened a 9-month CD (@4.5% interest) at Trustco Bank for $25k. Webster Bank would not allow our organization to open a CD. Closed

#117 – On several occasions Pete has asked Webster Bank if they would repaint the American legion building in lieu of a monetary donation. The branch manager for the bank told Pete that the bank's

management team has been totally focused on merging the technology from Sterling Bank and Pete should ask again at the end of September. In Progress

#118 – Pete revised our timeline to include entries for the start of the Girl Scout troop in Ardsley, the Juneteenth celebration and MVR's 100th Anniversary celebration. Closed

#119 – Pete and Gary determined that we have 35 editions of the Ardsley Sun leader totaling 140 pages. Gary sent that information to Advantage Archives and requested that they provide us with a quote for scanning the newspapers. Closed

#120 – Pete determined that neither our Constitution or our Bylaws contain a Conflicts Policy and therefore we need to adopt one. Closed

B. New Business

Announcements (Peter)

The Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion (AMDI) committee will be hosting an Italian American Heritage Celebration on Saturday October 14 from noon to 4:00 pm. Our organization was invited to have a table. We could display some photos from the development of the Aqueduct. Pete asked for people to volunteer to staff our table.

Annual Financial Report (Peter)

Pete reviewed the current report (July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023) and compared the entries to the prior 12-month period. The current report shows that our expenses were $4,300 less than the prior year.

On August 8 Pete submitted IRS Form 990-N (ePostcard) which is our annual tax filing requirement.

Meeting Schedule (Peter)

These are the dates for the remaining meetings in 2023: October 17, November 21, and December 19

Membership (Peter)

We currently have 147 members, 23 of whom are new. They have contributed $5,398 in dues. We have also received $26,715 in additional donations.

Odell House (Peter)

The new roof has been completed and the scaffolding has come down. On July 27th, nine contracting firms came to the site in response to RFP from the Town for the next construction phase. The bids came in August 17th and there were two qualified firms. The Town will announce the winner soon and they expect to issue a contract so that work can begin in October.

Their next major event is Colonial Day which will be held on September 30th. Pete distributed flyers.

On August 19 Dr. Iris de Rode conducted an interview at the Odell Houe about the alliance between the Americans and the French during the Revolutionary War. Later that day she gave a talk at St. Paul's National Historic Site in Mount Vernon. The video of the interview will be included in interactive kiosks to be installed at historic sites and parks around the state, including the Odell House. Pete distributed copies of an article that appeared in the both The Rivertowns Enterprise and The Scarsdale Inquirer.

RW250 (Peter)

There are many upcoming events in the Fall so check their website for details. Peter will continue to send the society information about all the events that are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

A County-wide Summit is scheduled for September 27th at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Leaders from all over the county were invited to attend (Pete will be attending as our representative). The objective is to begin developing plans for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution which will be taking place in 2026.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

The school advisors (Mr. Nappi and Mr. Grady) will conduct their first event of the new school year at Colonial Day on September 30.

High School Class Reunion (Rob)

Someone from the class of 1973 which is holding their 50th reunion this coming weekend reached out to Bernie for information. Bernie passed the contact's information to Rob who will reach out to them and will offer to supply them with photos from our archives.

WWII Plaque & AUFSD (Peter)

No progress has been made. Peter and Rob need to meet with the school superintendent to review the revised proposal. However, a sponsor or fundraising activity will have to be planned in order for the school district to be able to afford this monument. Pete continues to investigate funding opportunities.

Fall Newsletter (Rob)

Ideas for the Fall newsletter were discussed. Rob mentioned that Sharon Colabello has been working on an article about her father, Marty Engleman (owner of Marty's Mug & Munch). Rob talked with Maurice Hyacinthe about writing an article about his father, Hector Hyacinthe. Rob also suggested including articles from prior newsletters, e.g., Water Wheel Inn.

Girl Scouts

Two of the scout leaders (Miriam Sassalos and Allison Bergman) came to our meeting to talk about their plans for the 100th anniversary of the girl scout troop in Ardsley. They talked about their meeting with the AUFSD Superintendent (Ryan Schoenfeld) and their interest in involving the students in their celebration.
They also mentioned that they met with the Ardsley Mayor (Nancy Kaboolian) about their plans for a Silver Award project. It was decided that they would plant a native garden on the Ardsley Public Library property. Rob mentioned that it was very important that they reach out to the Garden Club (Linda Keil) before they did any digging or planting at the library since the Garden Club has invested a lot of time and effort planting and weeding gardens there.

The leaders asked if our organization could provide them with access to photos from our archives and articles from past newsletters. Gary mentioned that we had an old girl scout uniform in our archives. We also suggested that they consider taking on a bigger role at the annual Memorial Day Parade. Gary suggested doing something to honor Gertrude Walter (the founder of Ardsley's first troop). Pete suggested that they consider creating a display of Gril Scout memorabilia to be housed in one of the display cases in the lobby of the Middle School. Rob suggested that they reach out to the Seniors (Mary Keehan) to see if there were any former girl scouts who had any items to share.

The leaders mentioned that they would be fundraising for a plaque which would be located somewhere on the grounds of the library. They also mentioned that they would be continuing with their Veterans Day activities as well as maintaining the Peace Garden at the Greenburgh Public Library.

Website Analytics (Blake)

Our website had 312 visits with 282 unique visitors and 535 page views this month. The average time on a page is 125 seconds. There were also 4 form submissions.

Programs (Peter)

Pierre spoke about the link to the video of the Great Hunger Memorial program (March 19). Apparently, this link was shared with the public (via Ardsley Connect) and it went directly to You Tube, bypassing our website. Pierre said this was a missed opportunity. He suggested that in the future we have Blake create a separate web page that contains the program link and this is what gets shared via Ardsley Connect. All agreed that this would be a better way to share these links.

Pete spoke about conducting a trip to the Jackie Robinson Museum (in lower Manhattan) as something that would be of interest to our membership; perhaps we could partner with the Senior Citizens on a trip. Rob even suggested inviting the Middle School's local history club. Apparently, George Malone (Town AV specialist who records the Village Board meetings) has a contact who is on the board of the museum. This individual offered to conduct a private tour for Ardsley. The mayor suggested that we could rent a bus. Barbara suggested that we might be able to use the trip as a fund-raising activity. Pete will approach the seniors and gauge their interest and attempt to obtain more information about the museum tour.

Advantage Archives (Gary and Peter)

Advantage Archives has completed scanning 29 editions of The Masterson Press and 35 editions of "The Ardsley Sun" from the 1950's. These newspapers can now be included in the search feature on our website.

Discussion

NY State requires that all non-profit organizations have a "Conflict Policy." This policy is intended to disclose any possible conflict of interests that any board member has. Peter checked our Constitution and Bylaws and determined that we do not already have such a policy. Gary shared an example from the Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF). Pete promised to customize this policy for our organization and share that with the board members before our next meeting when we will continue our discussion.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Andy D. makes the motion to adjourn and Andy L. seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Next meeting date: October 17th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone