Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Library
February 18, 2025
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, J. Damascus, , P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino and G. Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 7:32pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the January 21st meeting. George and Matt mentioned three typographical errors that were corrected. George made the motion. Matt seconds it. All in favor. The minutes were approved as amended.

Reviewed two action items (128 and 131): stand-up banner and Lewisohn recognition request. The banner is closed since the banner is now on display. The Lewisohn recognition issue will be discussed later in the meeting.

Review calendar: No discussion. Discussed last meeting

Review Program at Concord Road School (1/30): This program was done over Zoom with all 2nd grade classes participating. Peter said it went well and the students were very involved and active with their responses.

Review Annual Report (2/3): The report was well-received by the village board with the exception of our Lewisohn street naming request. Trustee Barry McGoey has since become a member.

Review Stand-Up Banner & Press Release (2/13): Angela Groth agreed to keep the banner on display in the library for the rest of February. Gary produced a great press release which was posted on Facebook and on our website. It will be in the upcoming Ardsley Connect and Peter will ask Blake to e-mail to all our members. Peter also sent the press release to Tim Lamorte to publish in the Rivertowns Dispatch.

New Business

1. Announcements (Peter)— The mayor will attend our next meeting as our liaison to the board. The Neighborhood Buzz periodical has our cannonball artifact featured prominently in an article in their latest issue (Winter, 2025). Gary suggested that we should work more closely with The Buzz (Alan Greenwald is the publisher and an Ardsley resident) and perhaps utilize his magazine as our newsletter. Tim LaMorte of The Rivertowns Dispatch is doing an article regarding US Presidents that have visited the Rivertowns. Pete submitted information about President Washington (and the Revolutionary War encampment) and President Taft (who was a luncheon guest of Adolph Lewisohn). Former mayor, trustee and Zoning Board member Mort David passed away this week. Peter read the service information.
2. Membership (Peter)—92 dues paying members (3 are new). Their dues total of $3,426. Five people have contributed an additional $ 372 in donations. Three of our former business sponsors

renewed recently (Ardsley Eye Care, Savino Floors, and MVR). We are actively working to get renewals from Ardsley Diner, Ardsley Tire, and Mulvey Real Estate.

3. Odell House Current Status (Peter)—Restoration work is being done on both the exterior and interior of the buildings. There is a big fundraising push as they need donors to raise $1 million in order to implement the exhibits that have been designed.
4. RW250 Upcoming Events (Peter)—Peter sent an e-mail to members earlier today regarding the upcoming events taking place during Feb and March. Some upcoming events listed are in Briarcliff (stained glass windows), Peekskill (Abraham Lincoln), White Plains (George Washington), Croton Point Park (walking tours), Tarrytown (capture of Major Andre) and Eastchester (role of women in the Revolutionary War). There will also be a program on Zoom regarding New York City in 1835.
5. Middle School History Club (Peter)—Peter shared the Lego project photos via e-mail. Rob and Peter met with the club's advisors and will be setting up a walking tour especially customized for the students this spring.
6. WWII Memorial (Peter and Rob)—Dr. Block likes the location on the Farm Road campus (on the left side of the Administration building). Rob has supplied Paul Petretti with the project information and has asked for an estimate. Gary discussed merging this project with the Lewisohn dedication we would like to do. Gary spoke on how education was a central mission for Lewisohn and suggested we do a Lewisohn Garden on campus with the WWII monument. He has a Rockefeller connection that might be willing to help fund this project. We need to get moving on this project while we have the superintendent's support.
7. Ardsley Little league Sponsorship (Peter)—Thanks to some help from Matt speaking with Little League board members, our hard stance against paying the elevated new sponsor price worked out and we will be able to continue our team sponsorship this year for the same $500 price as last year.
8. Programs—Matt spoke about his interest on doing a program on the History of Ardsley Little League. However more research and ideas will be needed before we can produce a suitable presentation. Matt asked Rob to conduct some additional research (perhaps including the girls softball program). No other program topics were discussed.
9. Discussion: i) Selling Duplicate Yearbooks (Matt)—Matt read a sample draft on what we could post on Facebook regarding selling some of the duplicate high school yearbooks we had in storage. Gary suggested that we first offer them to our membership via e-mail first to see if anybody would be interested.

    ii) Facebook Page Before and After (Matt)—Matt reported that after he posted a before and after picture of the old public school building on our Facebook page, we received 35 likes/loves, 15 comments and 3 shares. In other words, there is traffic and action on items like this. Matt would like to turn the interest into a recruitment of new members. He will continue similar postings in the near future.

    Skipped to iv and v) Ardsley High School Newspapers 1937-1939 (Peter)—Somebody reached out to Peter and has original school newspapers from 1937-1939 and will ship them to us for our records and for digitization. Peter said this project could go together with Gary's Ardsley Panther Newspaper project (1966-1969) since the minimum charge from Advantage Archives is based on 200 pages.

Peter asked for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Jim makes the motion and George seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Next meeting date: March 18, 2025 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone