

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting  
In-person  
Ardsley Library  
September 20, 2022  
Minutes

**Attendees:** M. Arone, G. Calvi, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, and Gary Rappaport.

Webmaster Blake Rappaport

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rob made the motion, George seconds it. All in favor.

Review Welcome Back Ardsley event (9/17): Peter reported the event was very successful. Many younger families attended. The table set-up was much improved. The parking lot was full. Rob reported that although they had a few people join the tours, nobody attended the tours from referrals from our table. Middle School history teachers Andrew Nappi and Sean Grady brought 18-20 students from their History Club. Handouts regarding gas masks and the Peach Pits were distributed. Peter thanked all those people who assisted on Saturday.

Review Action Items:

#96: Pierre completed working on the recording of the annual meeting and the program on Thomas Paine. Pierre has done another outstanding job with this recording, which features enhanced audio plus Dr Crowder's slides. There is now a link to this recording on the historical society website and Peter is urging those interested to click on the link to view.

#98: Contact Trish Lacy to determine open dates at the community center in October or November for an open house. Rob will follow up with her.

B. New Business

**Announcements (Peter)**

A binder (which needs to stay at the library) with all the new veteran military banners (including bio information) was shown to the society members. The binder was prepared by Sharon Colabello; she also prepared another binder for us that will be kept in our archives.

On September 6, a potential Eagle Scout project was presented to the Village Board for their approval. This project would involve constructing 10 markers in front of the Wall of Honor with an explanation of the "folds of the flag." The project also includes sprucing up the existing museum at Ashford Park as well as constructing a ramp to the entrance for the handicapped. Both Rob and Pete sent emails to the mayor

expressing our concerns that these markers would obstruct the Wall of Honor. Efraim Hernandez, legion Post commander, polled the veterans at their last meeting and they were unanimously opposed to this project. The mayor contacted the boy scout and encouraged him to pursue a different project. She suggested that he work with Sharon Colabello on digitizing the binder of military banners.

Old Garden Club quilts: A 1976 Wildflower quilt was raffled off years ago and the winner (Rachel Palermo) decided that she would like to donate it back to the garden club. On Monday (9/19) Rachel's daughter brought this quilt to the library and presented it to two members of the Garden Club (Linda Keil and Mary Keehan) and Pete. The quilt is now stored in our archives. Linda talked about holding a garden club program in the spring where many of the old quilts could be displayed.

Peter spoke to Arlene Weston who sends her regards. She recently fell and broke her hip; she is now feeling better and going for physical therapy.

### **Annual Financial Report (Peter)**

Reminder: our budget year is July 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The balance was \$3,000 (approximately) less than 6/2021

The board reviewed each expense. Gary questioned if the cost of the newsletters is in our best interest moving forward.

### **Meeting Schedule-2022**

October 18, November 15 and December 20<sup>th</sup> are the next three meeting dates.

### **Membership (Peter)**

YTD we have 156 members, 25 of them are new members. Total dues received is \$5,130 plus \$631 in donations.

### **Tax Filing (Peter)**

It is required to file IRS Form 990-N by mid-November. Peter submitted it on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Odell House (Peter)**

Susan Seal, president of OHRH (Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters) invited Rob and Pete to apply to join their board of trustees. Both were accepted and they attended their annual meeting on September 10. There is still a lot of planning that needs to be done regarding the actual building and grounds. An archeology report was recently completed and is being reviewed. A proposal was accepted for a Cultural Landscape project. Another proposal is being considered for museum planning. The goal is that by 2026 the site will be a museum open to the public.

## **RW250 (Peter)**

The Westchester Library System has agreed to provide funding to WLS libraries for Revolutionary Westchester 250 events.

Flyers were distributed for the following:

October 1<sup>st</sup>—“The Recruiting Sergeant” at 1pm at Ardsley Library.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>—“Revolution on the Hudson” starting at 12 noon at Pierson Park in Tarrytown

To show our support we will have a table at this event. Volunteers are needed to staff the table. Pete will send out an email in advance asking for volunteers.

Blake will send emails to our membership announcing these two events.

## **Little League Sponsorship (Matt)**

Last Saturday we received a plaque (with a team picture) for the team we sponsored (known as the “Historians”). Some ideas were discussed on where to display the plaque. Village hall lobby or hallway was a popular idea if the library is not an option. Peter spoke to Little League board member Paul Perillo on 9/17 regarding putting together a history of the Ardsley Little League piece. Matt also had been texting with Paul and sent him pictures of old brochures from the 1950’s.

**Action:** Matt agreed to communicate with Paul Perillo regarding working together on Little league history ideas. Rob will get matt some pictures he has.

**Action:** Pete to ask Angela if we can display the plaque in the library.

## **Middle School History Club (Peter)**

Teachers Andrew Nappi and Sean Grady organized a history club at the middle school and have mentioned they would like to help display some of our artifacts at the Middle School. On 9/29, they are scheduled to come to the library with the students after school to see some of the items we have. Pierre’s walking tour video will be available for them to view.

## **Newsletter (George)**

The next newsletter will include a recruitment pitch for George’s replacement as editor. Articles being considered are the Waterwheel Inn fire, the military banners and perhaps some stories from George’s term as village manager. George also mentioned that the next newsletter will be his last as he plans on leaving the board in January of 2023.

## **Historical Markers (Peter)**

Ardsley Station: The QR code sign was approved by the Village Board, ordered and received today. Pete will deliver the signs to David DiGregorio (DPW Foreman) for installation on either side of the marker.

American Camp: A QR code sign needs to be ordered and a ribbon cutting ceremony still needs to be scheduled. Rob said school students should be there. Blake said the school superintendent and

principal could make that happen. Matt suggested that if the entire school can't attend, perhaps at least a grade or some classes. The American Encampment marker was installed on June 27 on Farm Road after the Stop sign which is behind the backstop for the baseball field.

**Action:** Pete to follow up with the superintendent (Ryan Schoenfeld) on picking a date for the ceremony.

WCHS CLIO entries: Pete submitted the paperwork for Ardsley to be represented by the two historical markers. This is a map of the county with dot marking for significant historical events.

### **Programs (Gary)**

October 23<sup>rd</sup> Walter Schwartz will be presenting the "New Croton Aqueduct" at the Ardsley library.

Sometime in November, Gary is planning on a presentation on presidential history and campaigns. Mary Calvi has written a new novel on Teddy Roosevelt's first love. Pete to ask if she would be available for a program in November. Blake to check on the availability of the firehouse.

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### **Discussion**

Digitization/searchability of our newsletters: Gary received a quote from Advantage Archives (\$180) for our newsletters and Timepiece articles.

Digitizing The Rivertowns Enterprise: In a discussion with the publisher, Deborah White seems to have no interest.

Peter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion to adjourn and Matt seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting date: October 18 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone