Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Public Library
February 20, 2024
Minutes

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

The meeting convened at 7:35pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the January 16th meeting. Rob made the motion. George seconds it. All in favor.

Review Concord Road School Presentation: Peter said the AUFSD's recent "Sharing Success" about his presentation to the 2nd grade students was very favorable.

Review Annual Report: Peter said the village manager, mayor and board of trustees were all supportive of the society after the annual report was presented. Peter will bring up some additional topics during the discussion period of this meeting.

Review Timepiece: Gary was commended on a good job with his recent Timepiece and the e-mail message that went out on President's Day.

Review Newsletter: Thanks went out to Barbara, Matt and Sharon Colabello for their contributions to the last newsletter. Peter has received all positive feedback. Matt made sure to thank Rob and everybody else who helped with his article.

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

Henry Groth's passing was discussed. He had been a board member from 2006-2019. His obituary mentioned instead of flowers to make a donation to the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry. Peter suggested a $100 donation from the society. Peter asked for a **motion** to approve a $100 donation to the food pantry in Henry's name and honor. Jim made the motion. Barbara seconds it. All in favor.

Pierre completed editing and preparing the Mary Calvi presentation video from September 10, 2023. It will be going up on our website soon. Gary asked how we are going to promote the video posting. Ideas such as Ardsley Connect, Instagram and You Tube Channel were suggested.

Membership (Peter)

Many renewals thus far.
We are at 115 members, 8 of those new.
We have $4,743 total dues and an additional $615 in donations.

Thanks to Bernie (Ardsley Diner) and Rob (Ardsley Tire and Houlihan Lawrence) for assisting in getting our sponsors to renew their memberships. We are still waiting for more sponsor renewals (HMH, RJS and Chestnut Mart.

Odell House (Peter)

Last year, the St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mt. Vernon held an event honoring Connie Kehoe for her work with RW250. This year, the same event (scheduled for May 11th) will be held honoring Susan Seal for her work pertaining to the renovations at the Odell House. As a member of the host committee, the society has donated $100 in the past. Peter asks for a **motion** to approve a $100 donation again this year in honor of Susan Seal. Motion made by Rob. Bernie seconds it. All in favor.

RW250 (Peter)

Peter has been sending e-mails with upcoming event information. This upcoming week there will be two presentations (one in Ossining and one in Yonkers) from Dr. Shirley Green on her book "Revolutionary Blacks. Discovering The Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color, Soldiers of Independence."

Many other upcoming events that Peter will continue to e-mail. He gathers the details from the county's monthly e-mail blasts.

WWII Memorial (Peter)

Peter has followed up with the current school superintendent regarding this project in connection to any upcoming capital projects the school has proposed. There is a sense that the school could cover the cost in a future capital plan. Although Peter hopes this plan will happen before the new school superintendent gets into office, the society is skeptical. Rob reported on another plan that might be possible (and quicker) involving services from Paul Petretti and Ralph Denike. The society should work on choosing a specific location on the high school campus and then continue to work with Rob on this secondary plan. It was also mentioned that Tom Minozzi recommended sending the monument plaque out to get a protective coating put on in order to protect it from the elements in the future.

Ardsley Little League Sponsorship (Peter)

Matt was successful working with Paul Perillo from the ALL board on getting our old "History of Ardsley Little League" newsletter article on their website for additional exposure. Matt also mentioned that if you click on our logo in the sponsorship section on their website, it takes you to our website.

High School Intern Sari Barnattan (Peter)

Ardsley HS Junior Sari Barnattan has been very receptive to working on our Instagram page. The most recent Timepiece and President's Day message have been posted and Peter says we have been getting hits.

Programs (Gary)

Gary has been thinking of a new possible session topic in lieu of the West Point idea discussed at our last Board meeting. Lisa Parshall is a professor at Daemen College in Amherst, NY and she has a background in village incorporation laws which could draw a big local audience. A possible May session would be the goal.

You Tube Video Subcommittee (Peter)

The subcommittee has consolidated a list of possible places to include in a future promotional video. Two tabs (consolidated tab and A List tab). Pierre thinks the video can be geared toward a younger audience picturing and listing various locations of historical points and events. Many ideas were discussed as the video is still in the rough planning stages.

Archives (Gary and Peter)

Gary has been in contact with one of the daughters of The Glixon Family who has some data and archives regarding Fair Housing in Ardsley that date back to the 1960's. She will be sending the materials to the society so we can digitize them and possibly put them on display.

Peter says our archive's room needs to be de-cluttered. Better organization needs to occur. Rob suggests for the society to pick a date for the group to come in and help out with this task.

Discussion

George suggests the society needs to get the mayor's support on the Lewisohn Lane renaming and the Alexander Hamilton Ave. dedicating/rededicating ideas. Hopefully, the village board will support our proposals as well.

Rob thanked Barbara once again for her last-minute picture editing for the last newsletter.

Rob initiated a discussion regarding Black History Month and forwarding articles (Bates article) to the school system.

Peter and his wife brainstormed an idea for a photo contest for the 2025 calendar where people could submit photos (or drawings) pertaining to Ardsley and 12 (or 13) winners would have their submissions added to the calendar and also win free memberships.

Gary has been in contact with Tim Lamorte from The Rivertowns Enterprise (which is currently not publishing). They have approximately 50 years of newspapers and Gary would like the historical societies to join forces to digitize the old editions. He has already reached out to Dobbs Ferry and Irvington and will contact Hastings as well. There might be 2,600 newspapers in total. A decision would need to be made on what platform to hire for this service. The society thinks this is a good idea and a topic worth pursuing.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion to adjourn and Barbra seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Next meeting date: March 19th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone