

Ardsley Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting
Ardsley Public Library
November 18, 2025
Minutes

Attendees

B. DeAngelo, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, G. Rappaport, and Trustee liaison Michael Wiskind

Guests: High School Student Ananya Shukla from Ardsley High School and her mother.

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

Old Business

President Gary Rappaport asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 28th meeting. Rob made the motion. Barbara seconded it. All in favor.

Finances/Membership/Website (Peter)

As of November 17, 2025: We have 123 dues paying members, 16 of them new. Their contributions total \$5,400 with an additional 29 donations of \$1,781. Our year-to-date expenses are \$5,716.

This compares favorably to a similar period in 2024 where we had 144 dues paying members (18 new) who had contributed \$5,622 with additional donations of \$1,040. Expenses were \$7,915 (which included the new laptop which cost \$978).

Lewisohn Memorial Garden (Gary)

1. Publicity & Outreach: The LMG sign at the high school had blown down. Joe Urbanowicz offered to reinstall it for us and has done that.
2. Fundraising: Thus far we have received:
 - \$10,000 contribution from our Historical Society
 - \$10,000 donation from The Derfner Foundation
 - \$10,000 donation from The Robert Wilson Charitable Trust
 - \$11,000 in donations from individuals
 - Total to date: \$41,050
 - Donation requests sent to local politicians and charitable foundations
 - Carvel Foundation has turned down our request for funding
 - Rivertowns Rotary: still awaiting their response
3. Project Development

- a. Monument Proposal from Minozzi & Sons: price finalized (\$26k); plaque was dropped off on Nov 7; waiting for contract from Tom; deposit (\$8,667) required in Jan
- b. Landscapping proposals:
 - i. Waiting for meeting with Lucy Berkhoff – time & plants will be donated
 - ii. Yedowitz proposal was too high (\$30k)
 - iii. Gedney Farms – forthcoming
 - iv. Tom Minozzi knows someone that he has worked with
 - v. Rosedale Nurseries should also be contacted
- c. Benches: should contact the high school (Joe Urbanowicz or Rocco); also Joe Cerretani re: Pascone Park and Bicentennial Park benches
- d. Other (time capsule, flagpole, copper sculpture) are funding dependent
- e. Logo: nothing received from the Ardsley High School Honor Society; Gary to follow up with Ms. Cooperma. Ananya offered to reach out to the AHS art department.

Events (Gary)

Our December 7th program (Rare Books and Manuscripts) is scheduled for 2:00 pm in the library. Tech setup will be done on Friday, Dec 5. Pete to handle publicity with Rivertowns Dispatch.

Village Board Liaison Report (Michael)

1. Bicentennial Park work is close to being completed. A new gazebo was recently installed.
2. The work on the new bathrooms in Pascone Park has been completed. The water will not be turned on until the Spring when the contractor returns to test everything. Rob and Gary suggested that this contractor be asked to look at the American legion building, esp. the roof.
3. The Village has five leatherworks created by Anthony Radomski. They are being stored in the A-V room of Village Hall. Discussion was held photographing them and creating a link on the website.
4. The bronze plaques that were on the façade of the former American Legion building and were being stored in the firehouse have been relocated to the back of the American Legion building in Pascone Park. Pete mentioned that they are extremely heavy and as such they pose a safety hazard to anyone walking past the rear of that

building where they are not secured. This concern was related to Trustee Wiskind. Rob suggested that perhaps only one of the plaques should be displayed.

5. Rob proposed that the six Revolutionary War plaques (four located in Ardsley and two at the Odell House) be relocated to the upper section of the recently renovated Bicentennial Park to increase their visibility. He further proposed that the park be renamed as Revolutionary War Park in advance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
6. Michael mentioned that the Mayor thinks that painting the American Legion building should be performed by a Boy Scout as part of his Eagle Scout project. Peter is totally opposed to that approach. He feels that the Legion building is a museum that is a village resource and it should be treated to regular maintenance by DPW staff.

New and Old Business

1. Office Clean Up: We need to create an inventory of our room's contents. We could give away some items as membership incentives. MCDI has offered to help us with another office clean-up and sale/giveaway; we need to set a date. We need to create an acquisition and retention policy.
2. We received an email inquiry from a former Ardsley student who wanted information about her Middle School track records. Gary suggested she contact the Middle School since we do not have any of their information in our archives.
3. Blake is continuing to update our website's home page
4. Pierre is continuing to add to our SmugMug collection; mostly recently he completed scanning Frank Jazzo's postcard collection
5. Proposed AHS Intern: Ananya Shukla reported on writing a paper on how the past affects the present and the role of historical societies in accomplishing that. She is also researching the time when President Taft visited Ardsley.
6. 2026 Historical Society calendar is currently being printed; we need to schedule volunteers to stuff envelopes, affix labels and hand deliver the calendars to local residents.
7. Pete advised the Ardsley Little League that we would not be renewing our sponsorship in 2026 but we will revisit in the future.
8. Revised Ardsley History Timeline: Ron and Gary continue to work on this project.
9. Conflict of Interest forms: Bernie still needs to return his form.
10. SHPO landmark designation for WWI Monument (outside Village Hall) to be addressed by Village government in 2026. Restoration of the monument is needed, as well as for the plaque on boulder.

11. Communication with the America Battlefield staff in France who helped us provide the records and pictures of the gravesites of our Ardsley WW1 soldiers buried there was discussed.
12. Discussion of status of Radomski leather works (Village is storing five of them); possible intern project
13. Barbara suggested that we hang one or two of our quilts (e.g. History quilt) in the library alongside the Village quilt. She will discuss it with the Library Board and the Librarian.
14. Rob wants the library to designate a space (book shelf) for our binders (calendars, newsletters, etc.). Gary to ask Marianne.
15. Deputy Mayor Steve Edelstein contacted Gary about an Eagle Scout project. Gary asked that the scout attend our next meeting but he was not present tonight. Gary is suggesting that a useful project would be to create a YouTube video highlighting 10-15 artifacts in the American Legion Building.
16. Cross Promotion of Public Programs: Gary feels that we need to limit our cross promotion so that our members are not inundated with program information. The Odell House has 3 programs upcoming at the Greenburgh Public Library:
 - a. Dec 10: Dr. Iris de Rhode
 - b. Jan 7: Char Weigel's Peggy Shippen Arnold
 - c. Feb 7: Dr. Laura Chmielewski (SUNY Purchase professor)
17. Nov 17 Ardsley Library program (British War Brides) was very interesting however the 1:00 start time is not very convenient for most residents (only 6 people attended).
18. Future programs were discussed. Possibilities include new Women-led business in Ardsley, a real estate update and Riverrun Books for December 7th.

Open discussion

Gary suggested that a December meeting was not necessary.

Gary asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barbara makes the motion and Rob seconded it. All in favor Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Next meeting date: January 20, 2026 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Marcus