

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
November 28, 2023
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus, P. Fontaine, A. Laub, P. Marcus, R. Pelligrino, B. Priesser, G. Rappaport. Trustee Liaison A. DiJusto.

The meeting convened at 7:33pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the October 17th meeting. Rob made the motion. George seconds it. All in favor.

Review Italian-American Heritage Celebration (10/29): weather cancelled two attempts this fall.

Review Jackie Robinson Museum Trip (11/16): not enough registrants to run this fall. Will try again in the spring. Discussion occurred regarding using some village funds set aside for the senior citizens and other ideas.

Review Action Items: Item #117 No update on Peter's attempt to work with a regional manager of Webster Bank on securing a donation. A formal request has been submitted for \$250. The initial idea was to use the funds to help pay for painting of the American Legion Building. The last time the site was painted was 2011. Matt suggested at last meeting that the village should contribute either some labor or supplies for this project since it is in the village park. Peter followed up on that idea and in fact, the village DPW will do the labor and pay for the paint in the Spring. If we obtain these funds, we will use for another project.

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

We have received our new sponsorship plaques/team pictures from the Ardsley Little League. Currently, we have last year's hanging in the library next to our office door upstairs. We might just switch and replace with the new one. Gary suggested that we use "command strips" (available at Home Depot) so we could hang both (without making any new holes).

The Friends of The Ardsley Library had reached out to Peter asking for some trivia questions for their annual fundraiser held at Saw Mill River Tavern and he was able to assist with 10 questions and answers.

Some sad news as it was announced the current superintendent of schools Ryan Schoenfeld is leaving after this school year. He has been a supporter of the society and our main contact regarding the WWII Memorial we are looking to relocate on school property. Some ideas were discussed regarding fundraising.

Thanks to Gary for his latest timepiece article on the JFK assassination and his letter to membership regarding Giving Tuesday.

Rob and Peter have been fielding inquiries from various people asking questions regarding Ardsley's past and former family members that lived here. A gentleman by the name of Sam Pitt from Norfolk came to visit the archives to do some high school yearbook research (years 1979-1986) as he is working on a screenplay.

Conflicts Policy (Peter)

Any board member who hadn't already signed the document did so at the current meeting.

Membership (Peter)

We are at 150 members, 24 new. \$5,487 in dues. \$26,790 in additional donations.

Odell House (Peter)

Restoration update: Includes a new roof and a safe chimney. The restoration continues, with new exterior shingles, restored windows and French doors and permanent stabilization underway. There is also a cultural landscape plan, which will be shared with the public. The Friends and the Town are working on an agreement to run the finished museum and have it open to the public. Gary had heard they might be rethinking that, however Peter was confident it was the plan.

RW250 (Peter)

Irvington Historical Society has a free event on Friday at 7pm from historian and author Russell Shorto called "Taking Manhattan." It will be held at the Irvington Main Street School. It will be about how the Dutch created the colony.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

From the school blast, Peter saw they recently visited The Sherwood House in Yonkers and the Tarrytown Historical Society.

Winter Newsletter (Peter)

Still looking for an editor. We are still waiting to hear back from Sharon Colabello and Maurice Hyacinthe on when they plan to submit their articles.

2024 Calendar (Peter)

Past Program pictures and text will be the theme for 2024. Rob suggested to add the Beasley program instead of Adolph Lewisohn. George had done a newsletter article recently (Spring, 2020) we can pull from. Gary will also contribute a paragraph. Barbara has been working on the calendar and has the first four months formatted. Pete and Rob are working on drafts for the remaining months.

Programs (Peter)

For December (or maybe later), we are wanted back to The Atria. Peter did a program there back on 9/15 and the director invited us back for more speaking opportunities. Peter will work on it. It also was mentioned that Pierre did a great job preparing the Jackie Robinson program video and we are just waiting for it to be posted on the website (see below).

Discussion

Blake has already set up a You Tube channel and Pierre plans to move all of our videos there.

Discussion regarding the new village seal. Not happy with the samples produced and paid for so far. Will need to continue to find a seal people are happy with.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Andy makes the motion to adjourn and George seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone