

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
March 21, 2023
Minutes

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

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the February 21st meeting. George had two questions and also found a typo on the spelling of the word “Guilded” on page two. Proper spelling is “Gilded.” Amendment noted. Rob made the motion, Gary seconds it. All in favor.

Review Action Items:

#107—There has been little contact with Internet Archive. Still non-responsive.

#108—Matt and Rob will report later this meeting.

#109—Rob spoke to Angela Groth about library display in the front window area as you enter the building. Rob is thinking the board has to come up with teasers, headlines, newsletter articles or program reviews that can be viewed via QR code. Discussion also included an idea to look into an electronic video display board which could be hung at library or village hall. Matt volunteered to look for prices.

Review Great Hunger Memorial Program from March 19:

Peter thanked all the board members for volunteering their time. We had an audience of 77 people which was very good. The publicizing and promotion prior to the session was excellent. Both the speaker and Mary Keehan did a great job recruiting an audience and Mary did an outstanding job with the refreshments.

B. New Business

Announcements (Peter)

On March 12th, the Garden Club held an event at the community center. Peter was asked by Linda Keil to help display their quilts for the event. Peter brought the three quilts from our archives and hung them along the east wall using 12 skirt hangers that Linda had purchased.

In February, Mayor Kaboolian had contacted Peter and asked him to assist the MDIC in their attempts to obtain a grant from the Westchester Arts Council for \$5,000. The mayor asked if our society could act as

a financial conduit because the MDIC is not a tax-exempt organization and could not apply for the grant themselves. After deliberation, Peter thought it would be in our best interest not to offer our assistance since it could potential place our organization at risk if an audit was ever conducted.

Membership (Peter)

Thanks to Blake's recruiting, our numbers have increased since last month.

We are at 123 members (9 new), including 8 sponsors. Total dues are at \$4,709 plus \$816 in donations (which includes \$54 from the March 19 event plus another \$100 from our guest speaker). Our membership form has been updated as well. Benefactor, patron, and sustaining levels have all been increased or added.

Odell House (Peter)

Renovations are continuing. They have organized a mini traveling museum which will travel to different local schools. They have already visited the Richard J Bailey School in Greenburgh and plan on visiting Ardsley Schools soon. They are still planning a special event on May 20: "Follow the French" audio tours which will visit three sites. The three sites are Smith's Tavern in Armonk, Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters in Hartsdale, and Rochambeau Park/Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds where there will be a re-creation of a French campsite. Funding for these tours were provided by the Scarsdale Historical Society.

The Town of Greenburgh has received two \$500,000 grants to assist with restoration. One was secured by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the other by former NY State Representative Tom Abinanti. Current NY State Representative Mary Jane Shimsky also contributed \$4,280.

Pierre spoke about his 3D model of the Odell House building that he is working on. This is a scale model made from paper that can be used for school presentations and shared with the students. Pierre has reached out to Susan Seal regarding this idea and the Friends are very excited about using it as part of Colonial Day (September 29-30).

RW250 (Peter)

Holding many events in Westchester (too many to list). Peter has been e-mailing the society the event notices and upcoming events are listed on their Facebook page.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Our archives which were displayed at the middle school were moved to the high school in December are on display at the school until the end of this month. They were scheduled to be moved to Concord Road School for display next, however they will be re-routed back to the middle school very soon.

Little League Sponsorship (Peter)

The 2023 application for the \$500 Minor League sponsorship package has been submitted and approved. Our banner from last season will be returned.

WWII Plaque & AUFSD (Peter)

Peter is working on getting proposals from two monument companies (Minozzi and DeNigris) to get the plaque cleaned and secured so a future ceremony can be organized once the school comes up with an appropriate site. Ideally, it will be placed on the high school campus somewhere. Approximate cost for the new monument is \$5,000.

Peter wanted to make it clear that despite being part of a capital project, that doesn't mean that the new monument will be paid for by the school district. Fundraising or grants will have to come into play. Gary once again suggested Generoso Pope Foundation in Tuckahoe might want to get involved with this project and help with contributions. They are a private organization that gets involved with funding projects such as this.

Map Project (Gary & Pierre)

Pierre and Gary showed the board members samples of different styles of college town and city maps. They also provided samples of Ardsley maps with boundaries, information, pictures and a mini timeline. Pierre is questioning how much room he can work with to include both a map and information. Gary mentioned Dobbs Ferry put together a quilt-like item with 8 sites. Pierre and Gary say the intent is to put together something cleaner than previous maps. The purpose of this project is to perhaps provide these maps to those interested either in lieu of a newsletter or as keepsakes for people to frame. This idea came from a map project the Town of Eastchester did previously.

Upcoming High School Reunion: April 28-29 (Rob & Matt)

Blake has discovered an upcoming Class of 1971 reunion on social media. Rob wrote an e-mail to the organizer (Bill Sanders) offering any assistance from the societies' end. Bill had a daughter who was named "Ardsley."

Matt said this type of reunion group is exactly what we need to be targeting to help attract new members and gain interest. The "Ardsley Boomers" Facebook group was mentioned.

High School Externship: Luke Farberman (Pete & Rob)

High School student Luke Farberman (who had volunteered for us previously) is looking for us to sponsor his senior externship. We need to provide him with a project that will take at least 90 hours. Rob suggested that he could scan some old high school yearbooks. Blake suggested via e-mail that Luke assist with labeling and updating the Smug Mug photos we have on file.

Newsletter (Peter)

As mentioned previously, George will no longer be serving as editor so the society is in search of a replacement if the newsletter is to continue. Peter has not received any interest from the public. Matt suggested recruiting through social media. George suggested asking the village board to make an announcement at an upcoming Village Board meeting.

Facebook and Website (Peter for Blake)

Peter had a difficult time relaying the data Blake provided via email (since the type was so small) for our website usage. However, we had 545 visits since last month.

Programs (Gary and Peter)

We are still trying to plan a program with Mary Calvi on "Teddy Roosevelt's First Love." She is currently on her book tour. Possible dates could be in May or in the Fall (September/October) based on Mary's availability.

Advantage Archives (Gary)

Advantage Achieves is the company we sent all our newsletters to for scanning/searchable features. Gary reports the proper updates have been made to the website so Peter says we are ready to launch it. Peter will review the latest website with Blake and discuss when to launch it.

Discussion

No discussion this meeting.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion to adjourn and Bernie seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Next meeting date: April 18th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone