Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Library
March 18, 2025
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, J. Damascus, B. DeAngelo, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino and G. Rappaport. Michael Wiskind (Village liaison) was also in attendance.

The meeting convened at 7:25pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the February 18th meeting. George made the motion. Pierre seconds it. All in favor.

Review one action items (129): WWII Monument will be discussed later on this agenda

New Business

1. Announcements (Peter)—Welcome to our new liaison from the village board Michael Wiskind who will be replacing Andy DiJusto. An academic Olympics will be held at the high school on April 30th and Peter was in contact with Stephanie Rosen who wants to include Ardsley history as part of the event. We provided some books, newsletters and an old quiz from the 125th Anniversary/Ardsley Day as references. Barbara asked about the coloring book.
2. Membership (Peter)—109 dues paying members. We had 145 last year. Total of $4,631 plus an additional $583 in donations from 7 people. Six of our former business sponsors have now renewed. Thanks to Rob and Bernie for convincing Ardsley Tire and the Ardsley Diner to renew their sponsorship. Jim suggested the local restaurant L'inizio as a new sponsor.
3. Sale of Duplicate Yearbooks (Matt)—Peter and Matt have been working together on this endeavor. Peter has figured out a way for interested parties to make a donation on our webpage ($30) and Matt had been shipping the yearbooks. Matt will keep receipts for reimbursement. So far, we have 3 inquiries for 7 different books and Peter has another one waiting. George suggested we include a membership application when shipping which Matt will do. Barbara suggested to look into discount shipping using Pirateship.
4. Odell House Current Status (Peter)—Restoration work is being done on both the exterior and interior. The windows and siding are going up on the exterior. The interior is getting ready for the exhibits. Fundraising goal for the exhibits total over $900,000. An October fundraising event is in the planning stages. July of 2026 is the scheduled completion date.
5. RW250 Upcoming Events (Peter)—Peter sent an e-mail to board members regarding the upcoming events. Westchester County Tourism and Film has been awarded a $250,000 grant through Empire State Development's Market New York Program to support the programing. These events have been scheduled for September 27-28, 2025 and October 24-25, 2026.
6. Middle School History Club (Peter)—Rob and Peter have scheduled a walking tour especially geared for the students on March 19th. Binders will be used by the students (2 students for each binder) to see old pictures from the past. Approximately 20 members of the club will meet at the

library and walk into the village where old business sites and historic buildings will be pointed out. Club Advisors Mr. Grady and Mr. Nappi will be in attendance.

7. WWII Memorial (Gary, Peter and Rob)—on March 12 Rob and Peter met with Dr. Block and Joe Urbancowitz from the school district; Gary attended via telephone. Dr. Block is in favor of the project including placing the memorial on the high school campus near the administration building. The next step is to get on a school board meeting agenda to discuss the project and to get their approval. Dr. Jennifer Bradshaw (assistant Superintendent for Curriculum) would like to get student involvement as we proceed. Gary is working on design and pricing with Tom Minozzi. A new protective coating will be put on the plaque before it is attached to the granite memorial. A tentative fundraising announcement date is Memorial Day of this year and the target date for the dedication will be Memorial Day next year. We are making some significant progress.
8. Programs—Matt spoke on his continued interest in doing a program on the History of Ardsley Little League. However more research and ideas will be needed before we can present a program to the public. Matt thinks this year, but not as early as April or May. Matt will work with Rob on expanding ideas. George asked Peter about the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Return to United States. Rob to contact Tim Lamorte to see if he would be interested in conducting a program (including interesting anecdotes from his time as editor of the Enterprise newspaper).
9. Discussion: i) Facebook Page Before and After (Matt)—Matt has now posted four different "Then and Now" items on our Facebook page. The last one was the former Chocoleteria in the square. The posts are getting a lot of traction, especially when it is shared with another Ardsley themed Facebook page. Matt brought in the comments from the last post for Peter and Rob to read through. Matt says now that we have a live and active audience anticipating these posts, the society needs to capitalize on the interest of people. What can we offer individuals? Gary suggested driving the people to our website in order to see what we have to offer and in hopes of increased membership. Peter will talk to Blake about creating a separate page on our website to post Matt's Facebook posts. Matt will continue to contribute these posts every 10-14 days.

   Other items discussed: Three HS seniors have expressed interest in doing their externships with our society. Peter and Gary are working on ideas for tasks they can help us with. Some ideas discussed were creating a coloring book for Concord Road students, interviewing people on why they moved to Ardsley and doing research for a potential "Ardsley History Week".

   Village BOT Meeting: Trustee Wiskind reported on the plan for solar panels to be installed on the new DPW garage, future improvements to Pascone Park. At the recent Village Board meeting two Eagle Scout project proposals (GaGa Pit and Flag Deposit Box refurbishing) were presented that have not been approved yet. A new paint job for the snack bar at McDowell Park (paid for by Little League) was mentioned, and finally Ardsley has joined forces with other municipalities to hire an attorney (for $5K) to help fight the ConEd rate hike battle.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion and Jim seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Next meeting date: April 15, 2025 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone