

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

Attendees: M. Arone, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, and Gary Rappaport.
Webmaster Blake Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 7:31 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the January 17th meeting. Barbara made the motion, Gary seconds it. All in favor.

2. Review Action Items:

#107—It's been over a month going back and forth with Internet Archive. Gary provided a phone number for Peter.

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

#109—Rob hasn't spoken to Angela Groth yet about library display

3. Review 2nd Grade Presentation from Feb. 6:

Peter said the Zoom presentation went well and he received positive feedback from Jill Rogovic. The interactive presentation was 45 minutes long and the students used Smartboards to view the slides. Historic maps and artifacts were included. Peter mentioned that a walking tour for the students might be in the works for the Spring.

4. Review Annual Report Presentation from Feb. 6:

Peter spoke for 25-30 minutes at the board meeting on our incredible amount of 2022 accomplishments. The Mayor asked Peter why the society was pushing for Adolph Lewisohn recognition and asked if our society would be willing to partner with other Ardsley organizations on their projects and programs (e.g, Garden Club on March 12).

Peter emailed the mayor after the meeting with news articles about Lewisohn's philanthropic activities. On Feb 13 Peter met with Linda Keil and Mary Keehan and helped them select two quilts to put on display on March 12. The DPW will install them in the Community Center.

B. New Business

Announcements (Peter)

Our banner has been on display for about 3 weeks now in the center of the village.

This is budget prep time for the village. Peter requested to the village manager that a \$500 increase in our budget line would help defray the increased costs of printing and mailing our newsletters and calendar. For the past 5 years we have been allotted \$1,500.

Arlene Weston and her daughter will be sending out memorial service information to certain society members. Her husband Harvey passed away last year and a memorial service at Ferncliff Cemetery is being planned for June 17.

Membership (Peter)

January renewals were solid, however February has been slower. Only 20 renewals have been received this month for a year-to-date total of 95 members. Dues are at \$3,195 plus \$569 in donations.

Senior, patron and family memberships are steady, however sponsorship members are low. Only one sponsor has renewed so far. (RJS). Peter suggested that we divvy up responsibilities to our board members to contact our former sponsors to help encourage them to renew their membership.

Odell House (Peter)

Things are going well with the exception of the lawsuit they are dealing with which has been in the news. They have received several grants from the state (\$500,000). The roof work is progressing well. They are working on the 1785 section of the building including chimney work.

RW250 (Peter)

Holding many events. Peter has been e-mailing the society the event notices and upcoming events are listed on their website. Sunday, March 5th the Irvington Historical Society is hosting a Zoom program called "The Guilded Age" at 2pm.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Our archives which were displayed at the middle school last October and were then moved to the high school in mid-December will remain on display at the high 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.

Little League Sponsorship (Peter)

Peter received the 2023 renewal paperwork. The \$850 All-Star package we purchased last year has increased to \$1,000. The board unanimously voted to purchase the \$500 Minor League sponsorship package this year which provides us with everything except for displaying our banner on the outfield fence. Pierre suggested we try and set up a table at McDowell Park one day during the season to help promote our society and increase membership.

WWII Plaque (Peter)

On Feb 3 Rob and Peter met with the superintendent of schools who has the actual plaque in his office. It actually still has the spikes which can be attached to stone or granite. They took pictures of the plaque and also took its measurements. Peter is working on getting proposals from companies to get the plaque cleaned and secured so a future ceremony can be organized once the school comes up with an appropriate site. Gary 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 related to Veterans. They contributed \$50K to the renovation of Hartsdale's WWI memorial.

Map Project (Gary & Pierre)

Gary and Pierre are working on acquiring maps of Ardsley (both village and school district) and are studying the borders and other map features. 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. Gary and Pierre are struggling to decide what to feature on these maps and how many items to include. This idea came from a map project the Town of Eastchester did previously.

Newsletter (Peter)

George had mentioned that he would no longer be serving as editor so the society is currently searching for a replacement editor so the newsletter can continue. Peter has not been contacted by anyone interested in taking on this position.

Website (Peter)

This month, the walking tour video was moved from out behind the paywall (for members only) so more people could view it. The idea was to encourage more people to become members. Our Ardsley Connect section has featured the availability of this video. Blake reported that we have had 64 views of the video this month. We have had 344 unique visitors so far to the website.

Programs (Gary and Peter)

Jim Houlihan will be the featured speaker on The Great Hunger Memorial for the March 19th program at 2pm at the Ardsley Fire House. Blake asked Peter for the details so he can properly publicize the program.

We are still trying to plan an April or May program with Mary Calvi on "Teddy Roosevelt's First Love." She is currently on her book tour.

Advantage Archives (Gary)

Advantage Achieves is the company we sent all our newsletters to for scanning/searchable features. It was suggested that adding instructions on how to do so will be helpful to users. Gary stated that this is a good value for \$200 and Blake plans to work with them to customize the landing page (using our colors and logo).

Discussion

Matt would like the society to put together a flyer or public relations note that we can post on social media outlets in order to help gain more memberships and perhaps gather artifacts/pictures for our archives. The thought is that there are many Ardsley class reunions or Ardsley themed pages on Facebook, Instagram, etc. that if we connect with, we can spread information about our organization electronically. Matt brought in a sample flyer with our specific details and shared it with the society. Blake also suggested we could hold a photo contest which would help encourage people to send us old photos. The winner would receive a free membership. Matt stressed that the main goal would be to garner interest in the society and increase membership. Matt and Blake will continue discussing.

A suggestion was made to hold an Open House at the Community Center where we could display some of our archives for the public to view.

Blake suggested that we conduct our Walking Tour in the Spring (or Fall) since they were so successful in the Fall of 2021.

Gary asked Peter how much we had in our checking account. Peter said we are around \$6,000.

Peter asked for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Gary makes the motion to adjourn and Jim seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Next meeting date: March 21st at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone