

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Public Library
June 18, 2024
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, B. Priesser, G. Rappaport.
Webmaster Blake Rappaport

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm.

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the April 24 meeting. Bernie made the motion. Pierre seconds it. All in favor. Note that there was no May 21 meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Review Action Items--#121: Pete asked DPW Foreman (David DiGregorio) about the status of painting the American Legion building in Pascone Park. While he acknowledged that this task is on their To Do list, he was unsure exactly when it would get done.

Review Annual Meeting (May 19): All board members felt that this was an excellent program although it did seem a bit too long. All agreed that Barbara Davis had a large amount of good information and they would enjoy having her return for a future program.

Review Dr. Schoenfeld's Retirement Party (May 29): Both Rob and Pete attended the party and were warmly welcomed by Ryan. During Ryan's remarks he acknowledged both of us and noted his positive involvement with the Ardsley Historical Society.

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

Dr. Schoenfeld recently went on a tour of the new DPW Garage and suggested that pictures from the Historical Society archives would provide good decoration for the walls. Our Village Manager thought that this topic was premature since the garage is not yet finished construction.

One-time New Rochelle student Sid Lapidus promised to donate \$1 million to Iona University's Institute for Thomas Paine Studies (ITPS), establishing the Lapidus Initiative for Early American Inquiry to preserve and advance the study of early American history and the humanities. This proves that people do frequently donate to historical societies.

Thanks to Gary for his very informative blast for Flag Day (June 14).

Peter attended the Jenkins Award Ceremony. Among this year's honorees was Dr. Schoenfeld.

Our copy of the 2024 Ardsley High School yearbook is now in our archives.

The village's Italian/American Heritage Day event has had a date change to September 28th. Pete is no longer able to attend since he and his wife will be vacationing in France.

Membership (Peter)

We are at 137 members, 13 of those new.

We have \$5,380 total dues and an additional \$885 in donations.

We have approximately \$6,500 in the checking account.

A dues increase is being suggested by Peter. After a discussion, Peter **asks for a motion** that senior dues increase from \$12 to \$15, Individual dues increase from \$20 to \$25 and family dues increase from \$25 to \$30. Bernie makes the motion, George seconds it. One abstention from Gary. All others in favor.

Motion approved and will go into effect on July 1, the start of our new fiscal year.

Financials (Peter)

Our CD at Trustco bank matured on April 25th. We renewed it for another 3 months at 4.4%. It will mature again on July 25th. Discussion on purchasing a laptop for the association occurred. Pierre has been using his own for many society related tasks. Prices are \$500.00 minimum. It would be able to replace the upstairs computer (purchased in 2016). We already own an external hard drive. Pierre wants to back up video files, use for presentations, use for office work, etc. 500G of storage space is needed. Microsoft Office is free for non-profits according to Blake. We would have to make sure to have the proper amount of ports for HDMI cables. Peter wants us to start giving it some thought since "Back to School" sales often are held in August.

Conflicts Policy (Gary)

Entire board must re-sign as it expires in June. Blake will circulate the policy to all board members via Doc-u-sign.

By-Laws (Gary)

Gary reviewed by-laws for possible edits/updates. He will work with Blake on revisions and report back to the board.

President's Responsibilities (Peter)

A list of presidential responsibilities was handed out and reviewed by Peter. He reminded board members that next May we will need someone else to become president; alternatively, two people could become co-presidents.

Odell House (Peter)

The current phase of restoration work (exterior) is expected to be completed by the beginning of Fall. Then the interior phase of building the museum will begin. Susan Seal has drafted a letter to the town board regarding a delineation of responsibilities moving forward. She is proposing that the Friends group will ultimately be responsible for operating the museum and she wants to begin the application process for obtaining an "educational charter" from the NYS Board of Regents.

RW250 (Peter)

Today, the Westchester Historical Society sent their monthly blast regarding upcoming programs for June and July. Some events will be conducted in-person and some will be on-line. On June 12th, RW250 President Connie Kehoe met with the Irvington Board of Trustees at a work session and made a presentation on the many ways villages can get involved with the 2026 celebration (250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence). The Irvington presentation can be viewed on You Tube.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Nothing new to report

WWII Memorial (Peter and Rob)

The exiting school superintendent was planning to include this as part of the Capital project which was overwhelmingly approved along with the recent budget vote. We hope the incoming superintendent will also be supportive. Matt asked why we need any assistance from the school for funding. He feels the school district should just give us permission to place the memorial somewhere on campus and let the society and public fundraise. We will need to determine a dollar amount for the whole project.

Rob reported on the previously discussed plan that might be possible involving services from Paul Petretti and Ralph Denike. Ralph possibly could recreate the base and post using concrete. Paul was going to speak to him, but there are no further updates.

Reunion for Class of 1969 in August (Peter)

The class has reached out to Peter about publicity assistance and possibly conducting a walking tour.

Reunion for Class of 1974 in October (Rob)

This is Sharon Colabello's class.

High School Intern Sari Barnattan (Peter)

Ardsley HS Junior Sari Barnattan posted about flag day on our Instagram page.

College Volunteer Mark DiMaggio (Peter)

Mark is a SUNY student who is majoring in American History. He expressed interest in working on a research project for us. Peter assigned him the topic of Captain Israel Honeywell. Mark is to provide Peter with weekly updates on his progress.

You Tube Video Subcommittee (Peter)

Pierre has shot some footage via drone lately over the village. He has some new footage in the center of the village, although village hall is difficult to get. He is in the process of editing other videos for the Historical Society now so this is taking up some time. The annual meeting program was a very long hi-resolution video that is causing some problems.

WCHS History Hunt July 1-Sept 8

The 150th Anniversary of the county's historical society is upcoming and Barbara Davis is reaching out to all municipalities to get input. She's asking for three sites in each place to be included for her program. Rob and Peter have already added our submission from Ardsley (Train Station, Revolutionary War encampment, and the Ashford Avenue School).

Former Local Newspapers-The News (Peter)

Three old copies of The News have been scanned and saved.

Programs (Peter and Gary)

Future ideas were discussed. Former Mayor Jay Leon approached Rob and Peter regarding a presentation on Gouverneur K. Warren, Union Civil War General. The hope is that Jay would join our board one day.

Gary suggested a presentation on former mayors of Ardsley and bring in some of the surviving former mayors to speak about their terms (e.g. Mort David, John Moorehouse, Sam Abate, Jay Leon, Peter Porcino). This idea was well-liked.

Another idea was Lisa Parshall and a session on local laws regarding village incorporation.

Discussion

Gary suggests we replace the existing "table top" banner we use for events and purchase a stand-up banner. Pictures were shown and liked by the board. Gary was asked to recommend wording, colors, etc.

Peter discussed the new "Rivertowns Dispatch" which is being edited by former Rivertowns Enterprise editor Tim Lamorte. They do have some funding and it is currently being distributed via e-mail only. The plan is for hard copy distribution in the Fall.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Bernie makes the motion to adjourn and Rob seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Next meeting date(s): September 17th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone