

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
May 17, 2022
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus (via Zoom), B. DeAngelo, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino and Gary Rappaport (via Zoom).

Webmaster Blake Rappaport (via Zoom)

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

B. New Business

Announcements (Peter)

We have received some good press coverage recently:

Bee Local: The Neighborhood Buzz (The Rivertowns Historians): Rob Pellegrino is quoted several times: In 1882 women's suffrage was discussed at a meeting at the Lyceum; Isabel McCartney was the first woman elected to a village office (village treasurer in 1914); Rob quotes Robert A. Selig that the 1781 encampment in Ardsley was the largest and longest of the war (that dense population would have been the fourth largest city).

Action: Pete to ask Alan if we can scan this article (pages 6-9).

Enterprise: published Gary's letter to the editor about the historical significance of Thomas Paine and the upcoming program with Dr Michael Crowder on May 22.

On May 22 at 1:00 pm the Tri-Village Memorial Ceremony will be held at Mt Hope Cemetery. The American legion Posts from Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Hastings will honor the residents of those three villages who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

During Records Retention Day a member of the library staff came across the original lease between the Ardsley Public Library and the Ardsley Historical Society. The lease ran for 10 years (from 1993 to 2003) at the rate of \$1 per year.

Recently Riley Wentzler (one of Greenburgh's assistant historians) contacted Pete asking him for information about any fighting between the local Indian tribes. No one was aware of any fighting.

This year's Memorial Day Parade (on Monday, May 30) will not begin until 11:30 am so that Maria Regina's band can march in our parade. Earlier in the day they will be marching in the White Plains parade. Rob plans to open the American Legion Museum to the public and Blake will send out a blast.

Membership (Peter)

134 members, 14 new members. Due at \$4,690 plus \$509 in donations. A question was asked about how people are informed that their membership has expired; currently there is no formal procedure established. A question was also asked about what percentage of membership pays by credit card.

Action: Pete to calculate what percentage of membership pays by credit card.

Odell House (Peter)

The most recent issue of The Rivertowns Enterprise featured an article on the Odell House. A 6th generation decedent of the Odell Family paid a visit on May 5th.

RW250 (Peter)

A representative from RW250 will be in attendance at our annual meeting on Sunday the 22nd. Connie Kehoe put a post on their Facebook page helping promote the program for us. Irvington Historical Society is holding an event on June 5th called, "Breaking the News in the Age of Revolutions and Today." You must register if interested (either in person or via Zoom).

High School Extern (Peter)

Student Jake Fetterbush started an externship with the Ardsley Historical Society on Monday, May 16th and will wrap up on June 10th. Peter has assigned him to perform an inventory of all the materials in the Legion building at Pascone Park and has created a spreadsheet to assist with the project. The project will include digitizing pictures of the artifacts inside the building. The pictures will be uploaded onto SmugMug. Steve Wittenberg agreed to assist Jake with any questions he has.

Historical Markers (Peter)

The installation of the Ardsley Train Station marker was completed (3/31) and the ceremony was held on Saturday, April 30th at 10 am at the Elm Street site. An article documenting the ceremony was in the May 6th edition of The Rivertowns Enterprise. Rob commended Matt for his efforts during the event.

The installation of the American Encampment marker is pending. Rob and Peter met with school administration to pick out a spot on the high school property and we are waiting for official school board approval before we can continue. No date is set yet for either the install or the ceremony. Matt made a suggestion that we incorporate pictures of these markers in our 2023 calendar.

Action: Pete to follow up with the superintendent (Ryan Schoenfeld) on getting the marker installed.

Programs (Gary)

Blake is asking that we all pre-register for our May 22nd program at the library. Pierre asked why so much personal information is being requested (Blake agreed to reduce the amount of information to name and email address). Iona College professor Dr. Michael Crowder is scheduled to speak at the May 22nd annual meeting. He is from the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College. His presentation will be about Thomas Paine and Revolutionary America. Our brief annual meeting will begin at 1:30pm and the program will begin at 2pm. The program has been publicized in e-mail blasts, Ardsley Connect, Facebook pages, our website, etc. It will be recorded and also livestreamed. Blake has checked out the signal at the library and it is satisfactory for the live stream. Matt asks why the program couldn't be held at the firehouse. Peter said we needed sponsorship from a fire department member which we didn't receive. Refreshments will be bottled water (Peter) and individually wrapped snacks (George). Attendees will be offered magnets or note cards.

Election of Directors (Peter)

Pierre, Rob and Peter are up for a three-year renewal and Jim Damascus has been nominated as a new board member. This election will take place at the May 22nd annual meeting. Barbara suggests e-mailing society members so they can vote by the Sunday deadline.

Miscellaneous items:

Gary suggests that we purchase lawn signs (18 X 24) with our name and logo that we can use with lawn stakes to help promote our society and our events. Peter asks for a motion to purchase lawn signs with our logo not to exceed \$125.00. Gary make the motion, Rob seconds it. All in favor.

Peter asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barbara makes the motion to adjourn, Matt seconds it. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Next meeting date: June 21 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone