

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
June 20, 2023
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pelligrino (via phone) , B. Priesser, and G. Rappaport.

Webmaster Blake Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 7:33 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the May 16th meeting. George made the motion, Gary seconds it. All in favor.

Review Action Items:

#110—The job description for the Newsletter editor was put together by George Calvi. Pete sent it to Andy DiJusto and Andy announced it at the June 5 Village board meeting. To date no one has expressed any interest in filling that position.

#111-Programs at The Atria. Residents of The Atria are the only people who are permitted to attend programs conducted at their facility (not members of the general public). Closed.

#112-The number of pages of the Masterson Press newspapers has been determined and the cost of scanning these editions was received from Advantage Archives (AA). At our May 16 Board meeting we decided to send the newspapers to AA for scanning. Closed.

Review Memorial Day Tours: Rob opened the facility on May 29th and there were about 15 people who visited. Some society members were also in attendance. Gary noted that the American Legion building is in need of a paint job.

Action: Peter to ask Webster Bank if they would repaint the American Legion building in lieu of a monetary donation.

B. New Business

Announcements (Peter)

The society has been invited to attend several few June events recently. The Ardsley Little League picnic invited sponsors to attend, but sponsors usually do not go, so we did not. The village asked if the society

wanted to participate in Juneteenth activities, but we did not due to lack of volunteers. Peter was contacted by MVR Insurance requesting we open the Legion building for their 100th Anniversary celebration on June 24th from 12 noon-4pm. Rob and Pete plan to attend and conduct tours.

Donation information: The Amazon Smile Program has provided the society \$38 in donations over three years thanks to member Michael DeSimone. Over \$500.00 of donations since January has been received thanks to Michael, who is a lawyer for Prudential where they match his volunteer hours with donations. A long-time member Steve Einhorn (AHS Class of 1958) has donated \$200.00 since January. A sizable estate donation of \$25,000 was received via the executor. No acknowledgement of the donation will be made public at this time. Peter suggests we take \$20K of the donation and enter it in a 9-month 5% CD with Webster Bank. Peter asks for a **motion** to place \$20,000 of the recent donation into the CD. Motion made by Gary, George seconds it. All in favor.

Action: Peter to contact Webster Bank about opening a 9-month CD for a portion of our recent large donation.

Membership (Peter)

We currently have 142 members, 17 of whom are new. They have contributed \$5,283 in dues. We have also received \$26,526 in additional donations.

Odell House (Peter)

On May 20th, the “Follow the French” tour was held despite bad weather. Pierre had a table at The Odell House with some of his 3D model/kits for visitors to enjoy. It was a nice presentation and about 80 people attended.

Their next major event is Colonial Day which will be held on September 30th

RW250 (Peter)

Peter has been sending and will continue to send the society information about all the events that are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Soon the school will be shutting down for the summer and our archives have all been returned to the society. They are being stored in our archives.

WWII Plaque & AUFSD (Peter)

Peter and Rob need to meet with the school superintendent now that the busy time of year is over for the school (tenure discussions and graduation activities).

High School Externship-Luke Farberman (Pete)

A High School student (Luke Farberman) has completed his externship with us. He worked 90 hours of volunteer work in 4 weeks. He updated captions on our Smug Mug photo site and scanned the senior sections of 14 old high school yearbooks. This will be helpful to our efforts to reach out to alumni organizations for each class.

Newsletter (Peter)

A spring draft was reviewed. It was a hybrid newsletter about the Revolutionary War markers together with a map. It received good reviews from the board members. Board members agreed that it was sufficient to send out to our membership and Pete was asked to contact Barbara for printing it. Thanks to Peter for his work.

Girls Scouts (Gary and Peter)

Gary was contacted by scout leader Miriam Sassalos about ideas for a Gold Star project for the senior girls to work on. Cemetery grave cleaning or work on a new local park was mentioned. The board was asked to brainstorm some ideas.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the first troop in Ardsley. A suggestion was made to have an article in our Fall newsletter about the Girl Scouts.

Action: Peter to revise the Timeline on our website to include entries for the start of the Girl Scout Troop in Ardsley and the Juneteenth and MVR Anniversary events.

Facebook and Website (Blake)

Our website had 328 unique visitors and 688 page views this month. Traffic was down on the website 17%. Blake is working on getting some analytics in connection with our search feature from Advantage Archives.

The QR Code at the train station marker had 19 scans and there were 10 scans at the high school encampment marker.

The Timeline was the third most accessed page on our website.

MVR 100th Anniversary Celebration June 24th (Peter)

Already discussed during announcements

Programs (Gary and Peter)

The September 10th program with Mary Calvi will be held at the community center. Peter will also plan on speaking at The Atria in September (no date yet) on the History of Ardsley.

Advantage Archives (Gary and Peter)

Advantage Archives is the company we sent all our newsletters to for scanning/searchable features. Gary sent the 29 copies of The Masterson Press to them and they have received everything. No timetable has been received yet on when they will be finished scanning. Gary asks the board if we'd be interested in also sending them editions of "The Ardsley Sun" from the 1950's. Peter and Gary will review our archives to determine how many editions (and the total number of pages) we have to send them.

Action: Peter and Gary to determine the number of editions and total number of pages we have of the Ardsley Sun Leader (weekly newspaper) from 1957-1958.

Discussion

Gary discussed a "Conflict Policy" that NY State requires our society to establish (as a 501 c(3) organization). This policy is intended to disclose any possible conflict of interests the board has. More discussion to follow in the future. Peter to check our Constitution and Bylaws to see if we already have included such a policy.

Gary suggested we add an annual lecture program with some of our new funding. Perhaps we could hold a small gala or fundraiser event.

Matt and Blake will follow up on continuing to work on an appropriate Facebook post to attract former Ardsley residents and students.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Bernie makes the motion to adjourn and George seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next meeting date: September 19th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone