

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting  
In-person  
Ardsley Library  
January 17, 2023  
Minutes

**Attendees:** M. Arone, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus, P. Fontaine, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, B. Preisser and Gary Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm

A. Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the December 20th meeting. Bernie made the motion, Rob seconds it. All in favor.

Review Action Items:

#101: This action should have been closed several months ago.

#105: Matt has selected new photos and submitted them to Peter who sent them to the village manager. These photos have been put onto the village website (Photo Gallery).

#106: Advantage Archives does not want to accept any other items until after they setup our website.

#107: Peter has contacted Internet Archive (who digitized the Silliman book for us) and asked if they could do one more book for us (The War Years). An application form has been filled out and they will be getting back to us.

#108: Matt has developed a sample and he will report later this meeting.

**Announcements (Peter)**

This week's Ardsley Connect mentions new content on our website: Gary's latest Timepiece "Hamlet of Worthington-Part 1" and the "Aboriginal Westchester" manuscript (in the Archives section). Peter has updated the Ardsley History Timeline on the website to include events from 2021 and 2022 plus an introduction.

Blake has added links (same as via the QR Codes) to the website regarding the two historical markers (in the Archives section).

Pierre's video from the unveiling ceremony at the high school is included on the web page for that marker. Rob suggested the Odell House links be added as well.

Pierre has finalized a video of the New Croton Aqueduct program that Walter Schwartz hosted on October 23 at the Ardsley Library. He is just waiting for feedback from Walter and Rob before the link is posted on our website.

## **2023 Board Meeting Dates**

February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20

All of the above dates are the third Tuesday of each month.

## **Membership (Peter)**

Renewals are steadily coming in.

Currently we have 72 dues-paying members, 3 of whom are new members. Dues total \$2,280 plus another \$514 in donations.

Peter read a breakdown of our 2022 memberships: 38 senior members, 26 individual members, 38 families, 16 sponsors, 26 patrons and various business memberships.

Fee increase discussion:

Peter has surveyed other local societies and most have a \$20 baseline for senior members. Membership fees seem to be higher at other municipalities. We will discuss and vote on a fee increase for 2024 as part of our May meeting. Rob suggested that our next newsletter should contain a list of all current members grouped by membership tier.

A discussion regarding the future of the calendar and newsletter occurred. Rob had a discussion with the mayor regarding our costs and therefore a significant increase to our funding was recommended. Jim suggested a list of our sponsors should be printed or posted on the website to help encourage other businesses to become sponsors (Note: a list of sponsors is included on the About page).

## **Annual Report (Peter)**

Peter reports to the mayor and BOT annually. He is planning to attend the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to report on our accomplishments over the past year. He will circulate a draft of his report sometime next week and requests that people provide him with their feedback before that meeting.

## **Odell House (Peter)**

Currently, the roof is being repaired and they are receiving additional funding for additional repairs.

They have two significant events upcoming: May 20<sup>th</sup> an audio tour called "Follow the French." As people travel from place to place (Yorktown, North Castle and the Odell House), the audio tour will allow them to listen to stories on the history of the French Troop arrival and encampment.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> a colonial day is being planned and they will reach out to local schools so they can attend the Friday event. The general public will be encouraged to attend the Saturday session.

## **RW250 (Peter)**

Upcoming events are listed on their website. Past event dates were January 11<sup>th</sup> (Loyalists in the Hudson Valley during the Revolutionary War) and 17<sup>th</sup> (The Many Faces of the Continental Army). On January 21<sup>st</sup>, "Stories and Songs with Joy Kelly Smith" is scheduled at the Harrison Public Library. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, "Treason of the Darkest Dye" with Jonathan Kruk is scheduled at the Eastchester Public Library.

## **Middle School History Club (Peter)**

Our archives which were on display at the Ardsley Middle School were moved to Ardsley High School on December 19 and they are on display at the high school until the end of January. They then will be moved to Concord Road School for display.

## **Newsletter (Peter)**

We have received positive feedback on the most recent issue. George had mentioned that he would no longer be serving as editor so the society will be in search of a replacement if the newsletter is to continue.

## **2023 Calendar (Peter)**

The sub-committee (Rob, George, Barbara and Pete) did a great job with new ideas and great photo choices. The calendar this year is more like a mini-newsletter with all the text each month. Thanks to Rob and Barbara for all the revisions. Hand-delivery to locals (by Rob, George and Peter) helped save on postage. Positive feedback has been received about this year's calendar.

## **Website (Peter)**

Blake sent the recent data/statistics to Peter. Our number of visits are up 2% year-to-year and our unique visitors numbers are up 11% year-to-year.

## **Programs (Gary)**

Gary is working on a program about Mark Twain.

Peter reached out to Mary Keehan who provided him with the name of a person (Jim Houlihan) who was the chairman of the committee that worked on the Great Hunger Memorial that is located in Macy Park. The board discussed possible dates in March and April to host a program at the Ardsley Fire House. Matt will reach out to Vinny Coulehan from the fire department to try and secure that site for a date in March.

## **Discussion**

1. Nothing new to report from Advantage Archives. Peter will reach out to them before our Feb 21 meeting to obtain a status of when their site will be ready.
2. Matt would like the society to put together a flyer or public relations note that we can post and send 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 electronically. Matt sent a sample text to Peter who shared with the society; Gary put together a revision of what Matt developed. Rob suggested that we encourage these alumni groups to contact the society when they are planning to hold a reunion so we can assist if needed. Matt brought samples of what these flyers might look like. Barbara and Gary suggested conducting tours for new teachers to educate them on the village. Matt will continue working on this project this year.
3. Gary suggested we that make updates to one of our local historical maps and either sell it (Eastchester Historical Society does this) or distribute it in lieu of our Spring newsletter. Peter mentioned that a map was developed as part of a 1986 newsletter (page 2) that could serve as a starting point.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Bernie makes the motion to adjourn and Rob seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting date: February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone