

Ardsley Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting

Ardsley Public Library

October 28, 2025

Minutes

Attendees

M. Arone, J. Damascus, Barbara D., Pierre F., P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, G. Rappaport, and Trustee liaison Michael Wiskind

Guests: High School Students Noah Meng from Edgemont (Hackley School) and Ananya Shukla from Ardsley High School and their parents.

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm.

Old Business

President Gary Rappaport asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the September 16th meeting. Peter made the motion. Barbara seconded it. All in favor.

Finances/Membership/Website (Peter/Gary)

As of January 1, 2025: We have 122 dues paying members, 14 of them new. \$5,376 total with an additional 29 donations of \$1,781.

Blake expressed to Gary a quarterly report would more accurately reflect the website data.

Lewisohn Memorial Garden (Gary)

An updated flyer has been posted on our website and social media regarding the fundraising effort. The fundraising progress goes as follows:

\$10,000 contribution from the Society

\$10,000 donation from The Derfner Foundation

\$12,000 in donations from individuals

Donation requests sent to local politicians and charitable foundations

Gary and Peter met with the Rivertowns Rotary on 10/21. (They indicated a decision on any financial help would likely be determined at their next meeting in November)

Peter spoke on the expected Dobbs Ferry Women's Society funds

Project development news: Gary has been working on a landscaping proposal. Unfortunately, he did not hear back from Rosewater Landscaping. The Board suggested some alternative landscaping companies to consider. Rob will contact Rosedale Nurseries.

A "semi-final" monument proposal from Minozzi & Sons is around \$26,000 in total. Peter suggests we don't wait too much longer on this quote.

A stainless-steel time capsule is being considered for the project. (subject to fundraising)

A future advisory council for the project will be assembled.

Ardasley High School students are interested in creating a logo for the LMG.

Recent Events (Gary)

New DPW ribbon cutting was held 9/20. It was noticed that there was no Village banner for events. Gary reported he suggested to Deputy Mayor Edelstein that if the Village plans to design one, it should be done in a manner different from the new Logo.

Ardasley Story Quilt display was 9/21. Four quilts were displayed and the Society's banner was also shown. Thanks to Rob and Pierre for their assistance. The four quilts all looked beautiful.

Rob and Pierre attended the RevFest250 which was held on 9/27 & 9/28. Mr. Grady from the Ardsley Middle School stopped by.

A successful Walking Tour of 21 Acres was held on 10/5. We had about 80 people and made \$200.00.

A ribbon cutting at Pascone Park was held on 10/18 and our museum was open and we had many visitors.

Program from Dan Weinfeld on the NY 6th Heavy Artillery was held at the Library on 10/26. 22 people attended and were engaged. Dan is a scholar on The Civil War. A \$50 honorarium was provided to support his research.

Village Board Liaison Report (Michael)

Pascone Park dedication on 10/18

Bicentennial Park work is close to being completed, including a new gazebo.

American Legion building is having remedial work done.

The gas station across from Carvel is moving forward with plans. It will include a mini-market.

A 4 or 5 story building (mostly residential, some commercial) is proposed for the old Westchester Garage site. A new parking plan is needed.

A day care center proposal and a traffic study are needed for the old RSA building in the Square.

Grid Rewards Program presented to the Village Board

The Mayor acknowledged and recognized many community groups at the last BOT meeting, including our Society members Peter, Gary, and Rob.

The incoming Mayor and the new administration will address the war memorial plaques and the legal issue the Society raised regarding any effort to move the WWI monument from outside Village Hall where it has been since its dedication in 1919.

Peter commented to Michael that he has continually been asking the Village DPW to paint our building/museum at Pascone Park and despite promises, it has never been done. Peter is asking Michael's help in getting this done.New Business

- MCDI has offered to help us with another office clean-up and sale/giveaway
- Shukla reported on writing a paper on how the past affects the present and the roll of historical societies in accomplishing that. She is also researching the time when President Taft visited Ardsley.
- The 2026 Historical Society calendar draft was reviewed. Special thanks to Barbara for her work. It features the 14 Ardsley High School students that perished as well as information about Adolph Lewisohn.
- We had a request from MCDI (and Shukla's mother) to store the new story quilt.
- Noah spoke on his interest on research of the WWI monument and the Appleby Farm marker (the site of George Washington's Headquarters during the 1781 Encampment)
- Two quilt images were added to the website's home page
- Plans to add a weblink for the quilts.
- Barbara made nametags for all the Board members to wear at our events.
- Gary said we received good reviews on the latest Timepiece on Ardsley's Renaissance.
- Rob and Gary have been sidetracked on updating the timeline of Ardsley's history.
- Some members still have to hand in the Conflict of Interest forms.
- Pierre successfully arranged for the Tim Lamorte program to be shown on Ardsley's local cable channel.
- The Westchester County Legislature approved funding to purchase and restore The Ward House in Tuckahoe.
- Gary found that there is are a number of Don Moss paintings at St. Barnabus Church. [Moss is one of the premier sports illustrators of the 20th Century, who lived in Ardsley where he had a home studio on Huntley Drive]. They also have an attractive banner that is rarely seen. Nobody on the Board is a member.
- Graphics is a new business sponsor.
- Discussion of SHPO designation for the WWI monument which can lead to grants to restore it.
- Communication with the French Battlefield staff who have been incredibly responsive to our requests for information on the Ardsley residents buried in France who died there in WW1.
- Discussion of the status of the leather works of Mr. Radomski
- Visitor Alka Shukla offered to look at the textile and leather items in our archives with an eye toward getting a grant for their maintenance.
- Peter spoke with Andy Laub who has only been unable to attend one Board meeting this year. Andy advised he still wants to be involved but his other obligations preclude attending meetings so he has resigned.
- Future programs were discussed. Possibilities are new Women-led business in Ardsley, a real estate update and Riverrun Books for December 7th. Matt also said he's still planning an Ardsley Little League

program for April of 2026, but wants the Board to help pick a date so he can invite featured guests. He suggested April 19th and would like the Board to decide by next meeting.

Open discussion

Peter mentioned that on November 9th, there will be a “banner walk” done by the Girl Scouts. It starts at the firehouse and they walk around to see and discuss some of the military banners. This will start at 2pm and is the second year in a row they have done this program.

On November 16th, the new Ken Burns program on The Revolutionary War will be televised on PBS.

Gary suggested we start trying to begin the monthly meetings at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30pm.

Gary asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Peter makes the motion and Jim seconded it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Next meeting date: November 18, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone