

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
In-person
Ardsley Library
October 18, 2023
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, B. DeAngelo, J. Damascus, P. Marcus, R. Pelligrino (via phone).

The meeting convened at 7:31pm

Old Business

President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes from the September 19th meeting. Barbara made the motion. Jim seconds it. All in favor.

Review Colonial Day (9/30): Despite some bad weather, the fundraiser at the Odell House was not a complete wash-out. About 200 people attended (including Peter and Rob). Many kids were in attendance. The reenactors were great and the individuals playing militia members were phenomenal. Ardsley Middle School History Club advisors attended. Rob mentioned how the reproduction of George Washington's tent and bed was a highlight.

Review RW250 County-Wide Summit (9/27): Peter attended this event at the Westchester County Center. It was well-attended by multiple organizations and historical societies. Planning for activities in 2026 has already begun. More information on specific programming to follow.

Review Action Items: Item #117 Peter has been working with Webster Bank on securing a donation for painting the American Legion building. A formal request has been submitted for \$250. The last time the site was painted was 2011. Matt suggested that the village should contribute either some labor or supplies for this project since it is in the village park (Pascone Park).

New Business

Announcements (Peter)

Peter wanted to clarify that he made some comments (regarding traffic and safety issues) at the 9/18 village BOT meeting regarding the proposed usage of the old Getty Station. The Rivertown Enterprise covered the discussion in the paper and identified Peter as the society's president, however Peter did not make those comments representing the society, in fact he never even identified himself as the society's president. He simply made the comments as a long-time village resident on his own behalf.

Conflicts Policy (Peter)

Peter thanks Gary for all his work on simplifying the document. Those in attendance had the opportunity to comment on any changes. Peter asked for a **motion** to accept the policy as presented. Matt made the motion. Seconded by Barbara. All in favor.

Those in attendance signed copies of the document. Those who were not in attendance will be asked to sign copies of the document at the November meeting, if not beforehand.

Membership (Peter)

We have 150 members, 24 new. \$5,487 in dues. \$26,740 in additional donations. The Ardsley Middle School Social Studies Dept donated \$50.00. When Peter reached out to thank them, Andrew Nappi mentioned the nice partnership we have with that group.

Odell House (Peter)

Phase 1 is complete and a contract for Phase 2 has been signed with Abbott & Price. The major focus of the next phase will be securing the infrastructure and repairing the stairs to the attic and basement in order to safely remove the artifacts. The artifacts will be stored off-site repairs have been completed. Also, repairs will be made to the doors, windows and trim. The goal is to have the 1855 section usable by next summer. The site will play a major role for the 2026 activities.

RW250 (Peter)

Upcoming events-Many upcoming so check the website. Peter continues to forward the information via e-mails. Two events mentioned were an open house at Phillipse Manor Hall that occurred in September and a living history encampment event at St. Paul's Church in Mt. Vernon (October 21).

Middle School History Club (Peter)

Nine students attended Colonial Day from the club, plus the two adult advisors. The school sends out weekly e-mail blasts (Sharing Success) and the October 6 blast included pictures of the history club.

Italian-American Heritage Club (Peter)

The festival was rained out last weekend and has been rescheduled for 10/29. Volunteers will be needed. Some ideas for us at the event are Ralph Facenella's art work and presentation boards showing historic local construction projects by Italian Americans (such as Croton Dam and the New Croton Aqueduct).

1973 High School Class Reunion (Rob)

Rob never connected with the group, although he tried. Matt saw pictures of the reunion on social media.

WWII Plaque & AUFSD (Peter)

Peter and Rob haven't made any progress. A sponsor or fundraising will have to be planned in order for the school system to resurrect this. Matt suggested a "Go Fund Me" page would reach a large fundraising audience.

Fall Newsletter (Peter)

We are still looking for an editor. Rob is waiting to hear back from Sharon Colabello and Maurice Hyacinthe to submit articles.

Peter added that we need some calendar theme ideas for 2024. It was suggested past program photos and text would be a nice idea. Peter will send out a spreadsheet listing our past programs and asking people to select their top 12 programs to be used (one for each month).

Girls Scouts (Rob)

They are working on their 100th Anniversary celebration. Rob says he heard they are planting a garden and setting a plaque at the Ardsley Library in the future. Not much more the society can assist them with at this point.

Programs (Peter)

The trip to The Jackie Robinson Museum in NYC is gaining steam. November 16th is the proposed date. Peter is going to reach out to the Ardsley Senior Citizen group to gauge interest. The price would be somewhere around \$35-\$40 per person (bus and admission). 40 people would be needed to fill the bus. Once the date has been confirmed by the museum the Village will send out the information on how to sign up and pay.

For later October or November, we are wanted back to The Atria. Peter did a program there back on 9/15 and the director invited us back for more speaking opportunities. Nothing has been booked yet. Peter reports they prefer not having video presentations. They prefer to have discussions and readings. Rob suggested bringing some of our presentation boards. Matt suggested reading articles from past newsletters and bringing some of the Ardsley history books to read (Silliman, Arone, etc.).

Discussion

Gary not in attendance to discuss some of the topics. Matt and Rob had a discussion on some Water Wheel Inn and Ardsley Train Station photos that they found on social media.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Jim makes the motion to adjourn and Barbara seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting date: November 21st at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone