

Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 26, 2012
The Homestead

PLEASE BRING A COPY OF THESE MINUTES WITH YOU TO THE NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012.

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Marilyn Serus moved that the secretary's minutes be approved as corrected; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara Robinson asked about the expenditure of \$500 for a shed survey by Fred D'Amico. Dorothy DeBisschop explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission requires that an A2 Survey be conducted every time a new building is constructed on a lot. The survey also took care of our driveway requirements. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the treasurer's report be approved; second by Marilyn Serus. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. Shed Progress – The shed is coming along. Ed Rowland added attic space to the design to offer extra storage.
- b. Roof and Chimney Progress – The chimney repair crew will be here on Tuesday, March 27. We have received a revised proposal from Larry Rowland to do roof repairs.
- c. Front Door replacement Progress – Marilyn Stebar – Ron Stebar will put planks over a new door and frame to create a batten door. He estimates the cost to be about \$500 and needs permission from the Executive Board to proceed. Barbara Robinson suggested barn boards. Catherine Helm, Jane Hulbert and Nancy Farnum are working on purchasing a reproduction latch.

Jane Hulbert has been blacking our iron artifacts. Marcia Wrogg has been painting woodwork. Dorothy DeBisschop is continuing to take the paint off the paneling in the Twitchell room. This project is expected to take a year.

Membership Report – Marilyn Serus – Since the previous meeting, 2 family memberships and 1 senior membership have been received, plus a donation for \$25. We hope the grand opening will draw new members.

Grant Reports – Dorothy DeBisschop – We have received all of the monies that we requested. After our Grand Opening, reports will be sent to each benefactor. Barbara Robinson wrote a thank you note to the Connecticut Community Foundation for their contribution.

Any Other Reports – There were no further reports.

OLD BUSINESS

"Oxford History Remembered" – Dorothy DeBisschop – The book should be ready to go to the press on Friday. We are taking pre-publication orders at a discounted price of \$18. The book should be on sale at the Grand Opening.

Plaques for the Town Hall Honoring Veterans Update – Marilyn Stebar – The plaque for the War of 1812 veterans is being made. Dorothy DeBisschop will speak at the dedication during Memorial Day ceremonies.

Grand Opening: Saturday and Sunday, May 5 – 6 – Dorothy DeBisschop

(Signup sheets for volunteers were circulated.)

1. Hours: Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday: 1 – 4 p.m.
2. Events
 - a. David Loda will appear at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
 - b. Sheep Shearing: 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday
 - c. Spinning and Drop Spindle Demonstrations Both Days
3. Refreshments – Finger foods were suggested.
4. Parking – The State Troopers suggested “No Parking” signs on one side of the street and feel that should provide safe parking. Myrtle and Fred Rowland have offered to let volunteer help to park at their house.
5. Traffic Control
6. Indoor Docents
7. Displays
8. Voices Insert – Marilyn Stebar is working on her article encouraging residents to save family artifacts and papers and to donate them to the museum.

Nancy Farnum suggested that we include directions to the Homestead in our flyer. We will put a sign on the corner of Rt. 67 and Towner Lane.

Programming for 2012 – Carolyn Ivanoff as Dolley Madison: November 10, 2012

St. Peter’s Church has been confirmed as the site for this event.

Calendars – Louise Burr – There are over 1,000 titles available in the catalog. We hope to get enough orders to make the sale a worthwhile fundraiser. The order will be sent in after the Grand Opening

Stones from the Poor House – Marilyn Stebar – Owner Charlie Edwards offered to place the stones, but Robbie Robinson will take care of it the first or second week of April. The hitching stones are still at the Poor House site. When Mr. Edwards takes them out, he will need to brace the wall with other rocks so progress is slow.

Any Other Old Business – There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Facebook Page – The Oxford Historical Society has a Facebook page. Dorothy DeBisschop is looking for a volunteer to take it over, possibly a young person looking to do community service.

Spring Water Jug, Chimney and Roof Donations – Dorothy DeBisschop – We are actively seeking donations to cover the cost of the Oxford spring water jug and the portions of chimney and roof repairs that are not covered by our grant monies. New labels will be made for the donation jars and newspaper publicity has been released.

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Award: April 4 – The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation promotes the preservation of old buildings. The group gave us “most threatened” status in 2004 and predicted that the Homestead was doomed. They now indicate that they misjudged the situation and are presenting the award for outstanding work in saving the 1755 house.

Need to Begin Interviews of “Historic” Oxford Persons Again – Marilyn Stebar

Marilyn Stebar suggested that we set up interviews with Bob Stanton, Ray Pope, Kathryn Fagan, Mary Kennedy and Janice Miner. Dorothy DeBisschop said we would begin scheduling videotapes after the Grand Opening.

Any Other New Business

On May 23 and 24, Grade 2 students from Quaker Farms School are scheduled to visit the Homestead. Dorothy DeBisschop proposed that the program include a history of schools in Oxford, inking and stamping the Sanford branding iron, the history of the DeVaux store and farm life in Oxford. She is looking for volunteers.

Dorothy DeBisschop gave out photos announcing the Grand Opening.

Jane Hulbert and Marcia Wrogg volunteered to provide refreshments for our April meeting.

Adjournment – Marilyn Serus moved that we adjourn; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.

Following refreshments, Dorothy DeBisschop showed three videos: 1) The history of the introduction of merino sheep and the woolen industry in the Naugatuck Valley; 2) A performance of David Loda’s reenactment of David Humphreys; and 3) Merino sheep shearing.