

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2014
The Homestead**

Our next general meeting will be Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at the Homestead. PLEASE NOTE MEETING CHANGE BECAUSE OF MEMORIAL DAY. Barbara Robinson has kindly offered to bring refreshments.

REPORTS

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

Treasurer's Report Cindy Joy – Dorothy DeBisschop read a thank you note from Susan Gibbons, 8th Grade Social Studies teacher at Great Oak Middle School, thanking the Society for funding an appearance by Kevin Johnson. Marilyn Serus moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. **Windows Replacement Plan** – The new windows will be delivered tomorrow. Marcia Wrogg is in charge of the painting crew.
- b. **Twitchell Room Floor Patching** – We still don't have the appropriate board for the floor. Dorothy suggested that we wait until after the Vintage Vehicle Show and hope someone there will have a board to donate that will work. Chris and Richard Crane brought a board to try.
- c. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – One heddle is complete.
- d. **Driveway Paving Fundraising and Grant Application** – We are not going to apply for a Matthies Foundation Grant since the delay in acquiring the windows kept us from handing in a final report. We do not wish to spoil our good reputation with the Matthies Foundation.

Membership Report – Barbara Robinson – We have a total of 58 members, with no new members. Cindy Joy suggested we mail a reminder to those who didn't renew.

Any Other Reports – There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents – Marilyn Stebar, Jane Hulbert, Marcia Wrogg – Interviews are complete for the Smiths and Leah Seabury. Dorothy DeBisschop recommended we interview Phil and Loretta Rowland and Fred and Myrtle Rowland as well asw Eleanor Sturges and Louise Burr. Marilyn Stebar listed Lil Olson, Jayne Frynko, Mary Lou Palumbo and Wesley Smith as others she intends to contact.

"Early Houses of Oxford" Book Update – Marilyn Stebar – People are responding slowly with letters, calls and photos. We have a volunteer who worked previously in publishing. Lisa Giordano called re: the Moody-Browne House which has been empty for 4 years. She gave the house to the Astoria Bank. It is uninsured and she is very concerned for its welfare. Calls to the bank are unsuccessful, and she asked that we contact their lawyers. Marilyn will give the information to Dorothy DeBisschop

Calendars – Louise Burr – This is the final opportunity to purchase calendars. The order will go out in a week. Louise believes we will make our quota.

Museum Docents Needed – Nancy Farnum – A signup sheet was circulated.

Vintage Vehicle Show: Sunday, June 1 at 1 p.m. – Louise Burr – Nancy Farnum said that we have 9 vehicles and owners signed up so far, with a couple participants inviting others to come.

Tag Sale – “Flea Market” – Saturday, June 21. (Rain Date: June 22) – Marcia Wrogg and Jane Hulbert – Hours will be 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., with vendors arriving from 7 a.m. on. Vendors will be solicited through June 14th. Setup for marking Society donations will be Thursday and Friday, June 19 and 20. Marcia has all signs ready and will put publicity and an ad in Voices. Five spaces are sold to date. Louise Burr will bring plants for sale.

Williamsburg Tour Proposal – Nancy Farnum – Members who wish to participate in the Williamsburg tour were encouraged to sign up. Forms are available at the Homestead.

Any Other Old Business – Marilyn Stebar has not yet heard from the American Legion concerning updates for the War of 1812 and Spanish American War plaques at the Town Hall or for the new plaque listing Oxford’s Civil War soldiers. She suggested that Dottie call Howard Belinsky with her lists of soldiers’ names.

NEW BUSINESS

Permanent Museum Sign – John Konicki – Jack designed 2 signs for our museum. Design A is a traditional colonial sign that incorporates the turnings on the Homestead bannister. Design B includes a sun symbolizing enlightenment and knowledge as well as the passage of time. Members will vote on their choice at the close of the meeting. **Note: Design A was chosen.**

May 2014 GreatGive America Online Donation Program – Dorothy DeBisschop – We have applied to both the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and the Connecticut Community Foundation to participate and have received our links. It is too late to send publicity to Voices, but Dorothy will e-mail our membership asking them to participate and to pass the word. She will also send articles to Patch and the Valley Indy. Dorothy is still waiting to hear about either group matching funds. That information will affect which group she recommends using for donations.

Civil War Armistice Anniversary Celebration – John Konicki – Jack proposed plans to celebrate the anniversary of the Civil War armistice for April 2015. He suggested holding the event at the Congregational Church, with music provided by Louise Burr and a local choir which would showcase Civil War songs. He has contacted Civil War reenactors from Company F of the 14th Regiment who will send an honor guard. He is also working to include an Abraham Lincoln actor and to involve 8th Graders in writing a brief essay based on the Gettysburg Address which would be read by President Lincoln. The American Legion will be invited to read the names of soldiers from Oxford who served in the War Between the States, with a bell tolling for each name. Jane Hulbert is bringing our request for use of church facilities to the Board of Trustees. Jack requested volunteers to help.

Recycling Project Truck Driver Needed – Nancy Farnum – During Fred Rowland’s convalescence, a driver is needed to pick up the bags of cans and bottles and to transport them to the recycling center in Naugatuck.

Any Other New Business

Marilyn Serus announced that St. Peter's Church will hold its May Faire on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and invited the Historical Society to have a sales table. She suggested that we show selections from our collection of historic CDs in the sanctuary. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we participate; second by Nancy Farnum. All in favor.

Bob DeBisschop requested the use of the Homestead for the Southford Cemetery Association annual meeting on May 13 at 7 p.m. So moved by Nancy Farnum; second by Ed Rowland. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Marilyn Serus moved we adjourn; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.