

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2014 7 p.m.
The Homestead**

***June Meeting Changes: Executive Board: June 10, 1 p.m.
General Meeting: June 16, 7 p.m.***

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report -- Cindy Joy moved that the minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting be approved; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

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

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. **Windows Replacement Plan** – Dorothy thanked Marcia Wrogg, Jane Hulbert, Jack Konicki and Catherine Helm for painting our new windows. Painting is complete and Ed Rowland will install them in the next week or so.
- b. **Twitchell Room Floor Patching** – Dorothy hopes that this can be completed before the Vintage Vehicle Show.
- c. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – The heddles are knitted and the threads will be dyed with tea. A reed is being ordered.
- d. **Driveway Paving Fundraising and Grant Application** – We did not apply to the Matthies Foundation for funding because the windows were not installed and Dorothy prefers to have one project completed before asking the group for further monies. We have about \$5,000 in our driveway fund, so if we can bring in an additional \$1,000 at our Flea Market, we should have enough to proceed. This will facilitate winter snow plowing.

Membership – Barbara Robinson – We have 58 current members and no new members since our last meeting.

Any Other Reports

Dorothy DeBisschop stated that a “red book” has been established for jobs that need to be done at the Homestead. Members having suggestions for needed improvements should bring their ideas to Jack Konicki and he would pass them on to the Executive Board.

The Haynes Barn (c1900) is to be torn down. Dorothy DeBisschop was asked to look at it for any historical significance. It was greatly remodeled in the 1950s and 1960s, and she moved that the Historical Society go on record that we have no objections to its demolition; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents – Marilyn Stebar, Jane Hulbert, Marcia Wrogg – Marcia Ziedler has indicated that her mother, Sara Jane Fryncko, is well enough to be interviewed with Marcia present. Dorothy DeBisschop and Marcia Wrogg will follow up.

“Early Houses of Oxford” Book Update – Marilyn Stebar – Marilyn Serus reported for Marilyn Stebar that Jane Fertig is passing along the notes pertaining to the houses included in the original “Early Houses of Oxford”.

Calendars – Louise Burr – There are 65 calendar orders.

Museum Docent Needed: June 15 – Nancy Farnum – Nancy Farnum or Louise Burr will cover.

Vintage Vehicle Show: Sunday, June 1, at 1 p.m. – Nancy Farnum – Nancy Farnum asked members attending to help in any way they can on the day of the show. We will have signs identifying each vehicle and its owner.

“Flea Market” – Saturday, June 21 (Rain Date: June 22) – Marcia Wrogg and Jane Hulbert – We will be marking items for the Society sales booth on Thursday and Friday night from 4-7 p.m. Marcia asked Ed Rowland to mow before Friday as they will be putting in stakes marking off vendor sites Friday afternoon.

Williamsburg Tour Proposal – Nancy Farnum – This is the final opportunity to sign up for the Williamsburg Tour. Terri Sherkus indicated that if we had enough participants, there would be a rebate to the Society.

Permanent Museum Sign – John Konicki – Jack Konicki picked up a sign permit application from the Town Hall. Dorothy DeBisschop provided him with a plot map. The sign will be by the garden at the corner of the Homestead. He is working on cost estimates.

May 2014 Great Give America Online Donation Program Final Report – Dorothy DeBisschop. We received \$1,435 in donations, and have not received our money yet. There will be some matching funds and some banking fees. We need to write thank you notes to the two organizations and a public thank you to supporters for Voices.

Civil War Armistice Anniversary Celebration – John Konicki – The American Legion wants to be part of this program. Great Oak principal Brian Murphy and enrichment instructor Sue Gibbons will encourage students to participate in writing a speech based on the Gettysburg address for our Lincoln reenactor to read. Jane Hulbert and Marcia Wrogg spoke to the trustees at the Congregational Church re: our use of their sanctuary and parish hall. The idea was approved and we were offered a reduced fee of \$200. We will need to charge admission to cover our costs and will either take reservations or give out tickets. Speeches will be brief; the focus of the program will be the music of the period as played by Louise Burr and the ringing of the church bell for each soldier from Oxford who fought in the Civil War.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Date Changes for June – Louise Burr – So that we will have one more meeting before the Flea Market, our June meetings have been moved up a week. The Executive Board will meet June 10 and the General Membership on June 16.

Liz Rowland’s Horses – Nancy Farnum – Nancy Farnum warned the group not to approach the horses in the paddock behind the Homestead and to keep away from the electric fence.

Marilyn Serus said that Ron Stebar is making 3 signs for us to put up on the perimeter of our property warning people away.

Peach Festival Theme – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop spoke with the director of the American Indian Institute who has authored “The History of Native Americans in Connecticut”, a work that is free of the anti-Indian prejudice of previous writings on the topic. The author is willing to do a book talk and to identify Native American relics from Oxford. Our theme for the Peach Festival will be Native Americans of Oxford. We will publicize the event so that those attending can bring local artifacts. We will need small display cases.

Volunteer for Refreshments for Our June 16 Meeting – Jane Hulbert volunteered to bring refreshments to our June 16 meeting.

Any Other New Business

Louise Burr attended the program “Railroads of the Naugatuck Valley” sponsored by the Seymour Historical Society. She showed the speaker our “mystery” photo that is supposed to be of the Oxford Railway Station, but he was unable to identify it.

Marcia Wrogg showed the group a photo from Harriet Hubbell’s family at an unknown site. Marilyn Serus offered to contact a Hubbell family member for more information.

Dorothy DeBisschop showed the group two new donations from Audrey Cable Linke: a vase given her parents by S. B. Church and 9 crazy quilt squares worked by Cora Cable, Audrey’s mother.

ADJOURNMENT

Cindy Joy moved that we adjourn; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. for refreshments kindly supplied by Barbara Robinson.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary