

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2015 7 p.m.
The Homestead**

Please bring a copy of these minutes to our next general meeting on September 28, 2015.

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

REPORTS

- **Secretary's Report** – Due to a technical problem, the minutes of the previous meeting were not sent to members. They will be distributed for review before our next meeting and voted on at that time.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Cindy Joy – Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the treasurer's report as of July 31, 2015 be approved; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.
- **Homestead Report** -- Dorothy DeBisschop
 - a. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – Beginning in September, volunteers will meet Wednesday mornings. Mike Green will fix the wool wheel bobbin and make a plexiglass case for the loom's original reeds and shuttle.
 - b. **Scrape and Paint Paneling in the Twitchell Room** – Nancy Farnum – Dorothy DeBisschop scraped and painted the clapboards outside the Twitchell Room. The Rowland Room has algae-like growth on the clapboards. If bleach doesn't work to remove it, she will repaint it. If Nancy Farnum has not heard from painter Kelly Prajer by Labor Day, she will contact him.
 - c. **Kitchenette Project** – Nancy Farnum and Cindy Joy – Nancy has not received quotes from Ed Rowland and will contact him.
- **Membership Report** – Barbara Robinson – No report.
- **Any Other Reports** – There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents** – Marilyn Stebar, Marilyn Serus, Dorothy DeBisschop – Marilyn Serus is working to set up an appointment with Shirley Thorsen's Aunt Janet. Marilyn Stebar recommended taping the Rich family after they close the ice cream shop at Christmas. Marcia Wrogg will contact Ida Litscher about doing an interview.
- **"Early Houses of Oxford" Book Update** – Marilyn Stebar – Marilyn is checking to see what photos still need to be taken. Marcia Wrogg asked about the restoration at the Moody Browne House. Dorothy DeBisschop has an invitation from the contractor to tour and take photos. Marcia will accompany her. Marilyn Stebar commented that Oxfordshire is falling apart. Dorothy DeBisschop suggested that after the Peach Festival she contact Haynes secretary Kathy Exstrom about opening the building for Christmas open houses. Richard Crane noted that this would be an opportunity to document the interior with photographs.
- **Permanent Museum Sign** – Marilyn Stebar – Ron Stebar will work on the sign in late September. John Konicki volunteered to help him.
- **Docents Needed for Upcoming Open Museum Days** – Nancy Farnum – We will be closed Labor Day Weekend. A sign-up sheet was circulated.
- **Peach Festival – Saturday, August 29, St. Peter's Church, 4-7 p.m.**
 - a. **Food and Supplies** – Nancy Farnum – Peaches were purchased and are ripening under newspaper at St. Peter's. Jenn Miles is making shortcake.
 - b. **Display (Early Houses of Oxford) and Decorations** – Dorothy DeBisschop – Marilyn Stebar noted that there are a number of houses that she is photographing that were not covered in the 1976 "Early Houses of Oxford". Dorothy will print legal size background sheets to mount

the photos we have for each individual house. There will be a scanner at the Festival to copy photos people may bring in. A video of the houses will be shown in the Sanctuary.

c. Publicity – Nancy Farnum – Two rounds of publicity were sent out on August 14 and again on the 21st to newspapers and other media throughout Connecticut.

d. Committees – Nancy Farnum – Volunteers have signed up for various jobs at the Festival.

- **Any Other Old Business** – there was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS Amend Article 8, Section 1 of Our Bylaws

- **Change in General Meeting Schedule: Vote to Amend Article 8, Section 1 of Our Bylaws to Read That the Society Should Hold at Least 4 Regular Meetings Per Year** – Dorothy DeBisschop – The Society will sponsor 4 programs a year with a brief business meeting to follow. They will be held in February, May, October and December on the first Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. We will tie exhibits to the program. Ideas include a synopsis of home life in Oxford in the past as previously presented to the second grade, an exhibit of J. Henry Eames' watercolors with photos of the buildings he designed, a livestock mini-fair in connection with the 4-H group featuring a talk on the history of agriculture and dairy farms in Oxford, a Lincoln memorabilia display by collector Marcia Wrogg with a talk by Charlie Rippel, and a tour of the Homestead hardware with blacksmith Doug Schlischer. Nancy Farnum emphasized that members and friends of the Society are welcome at Executive Board meetings and will be given the opportunity to speak. Jack Konicki pointed out that we will have people attending the meeting following the program who can't vote. Dorothy DeBisschop responded that we would still welcome their input. Jack also commented that he would like to see our group follow Robert's Rules more carefully. Cindy Joy said that she felt input from the membership for new programs that would interest them is especially important. Richard Crane suggested that we ask members to make a special effort to come to the September 28th meeting to vote on this Bylaw revision. Because of a technical problem, the agenda for the August 24 meeting was not sent to members, so the vote to amend the Bylaws was postponed until our next meeting.
- **Discussion of Tentative Meeting Schedule and Proposed Programs** – Dorothy DeBisschop – Included in the minutes directly above.
- **Any Other New Business** – There was no other new business.

ADJOURNMENT: Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we adjourn; second by Richard Crane. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary

Following the meeting, refreshments were served and photos of the Flood of 1955 were shown. Members also browsed through Flood memorabilia donated to the Society by Beulah Renker and Louise Burr.