

**Oxford Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 1 p.m.
The Homestead**

Please review these minutes and bring any corrections or additions with you to our next meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Present: Louise Burr, Richard Crane, Dorothy DeBisschop, Nancy Farnum, Cindy Joy, Barbara Robinson, Marilyn Serus and Marilyn Stebar. **Other Oxford Historical Society members present were:** Ellie Sturges, Marcia Wrogg, Jane Hulbert and Bob DeBisschop.

CALL TO ORDER

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

There were no comments from the general membership.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report: Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the minutes for the meeting of March 15, 2016, be approved; second by Marilyn Stebar. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy – Nancy Farnum moved that the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2016 be approved; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Fundraising and Development – Dorothy DeBisschop – Give Great is Scheduled for May 5 and 6. Dorothy will be advertising the event through e-mails, our website and Facebook. In the past, this fundraiser has brought in between \$900 and \$1,000. The Connecticut Community Foundation takes a fee, but also collects donations from contributors and divides them among participants. This year, we are only promoting the Connecticut Community Foundation, but we are also listed with the New Haven Foundation, and people may give there as well. We need to update our Guide Star goals after Give Great.

Membership Report – Barbara Robinson – We have 69 members, including those who renewed and those who are life members.

Museum Open Hours Report – On April 3, we had 4 visitors. On April 16, 33 people signed our guestbook, although there certainly more in attendance at the Fiber Festival. On April 17, 22 people signed the guest book. Again, some did not sign.

Any Other Reports – Cindy reported that the bank alerted her that the owners of two historic properties were seeking contact with our group. The homes are located at 86 Chestnut Tree Hill Extension (Sorrentino) and 180 Park Road (Stevens).

OLD BUSINESS

Longtime Residents Videotapes – Marilyn Stebar, Marilyn Serus, Dorothy DeBisschop – Marilyn Stebar will set up an interview with Mr. Viavoda. John Downs is also waiting to be interviewed.

Permanent Museum Sign – Marilyn Stebar – The new sign was on display at the Fiber Festival. Rob Robinson finished digging the hole yesterday. Jack Konicki worked on the post over the weekend, and is beginning to paint it today.

“Early Houses of Oxford” Revision – Marilyn Stebar – We are postponing our scheduled meeting for this Thursday. Brandon Whitburn completed his Capstone project, and was an exceptional member of our group. Eighty – ninety percent of the houses in the original book have been completed.

Kitchenette Possibilities – Nancy Farnum and Cindy Joy – Dorothy DeBisschop explained that Ed Rowland had not succeeded in getting an electrical quote. She feels it is time to act, and asked for recommendations from the Board for electricians. Once we have these workers, we can ask Ed if he is still willing to do the carpentry.

Docents Needed for Upcoming Open Days -- Nancy Farnum – Dorothy DeBisschop and Marilyn Serus volunteered to be docents on May 1.

Reprinting Litchfield’s “History of the Town of Oxford, Connecticut” -- Dorothy DeBisschop – No report.

Fiber Festival Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17 – Dorothy DeBisschop – Final Report – The exhibitors enjoyed their experience at the Fiber Festival. The shearer offered to bring in additional animals so that we can have both morning and afternoon demonstrations. Fiona Fine has offered to return to fine tune the great wheel. A couple with property on Pope Road donated an antique Saxony wheel. Dorothy moved that we schedule the event on April 22 and 23 in 2017 and let the exhibitors know the date; second by Nancy Farnum. All in favor. Louise Burr thanked the Lions’ Club for donating refreshments. Barbara Robinson will write them a letter of thanks, with a copy to go to the editor of Voices.

Calendar Catalog Sales – Louise Burr – Sales are going well, and we have reached the number to get the best discount. She is still taking orders.

Any Other Old Business – Ellie Sturges, Richard Crane, Cindy Joy and Nancy Farnum attended a Connecticut League of Historical Organizations workshop at the Thomas Darling House in Woodbridge. There were 15 – 20 participants from diverse local groups who shared many common issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Give Great 2016 – Dorothy DeBisschop – This was covered under Fundraising and Development.

Cricket Loom Storage – Dorothy DeBisschop and Nancy Farnum – We will use plastic tubs to hold the looms. This will keep the materials clean, transport easily, and avoid mouse damage. Nancy Farnum will ask Ed to clean the upstairs hall so that we can stack them up there. Our goal is to have this completed by May 1, but to leave out a couple looms for visitors to try.

Any Other New Business

- Richard Crane suggested that we put together a tool box so that we have what we need handy for repairs. He had prepared a list, which Dorothy DeBisschop will share with the membership.
- Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we schedule the Flea Market for June 18, with a rain date for June 19; second by Richard Crane. All in favor. Marcia Wrogg suggested the hours of 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Louise Burr asked for donations for the plant area.
- On May 15, we will open our display of Louise Burr’s grandfather’s watercolors. Louise thanked Cindy Joy for framing J. Henry Eames’ works.

- The Connecticut League of Historical Organizations is holding its general meeting on June 6. Richard Crane would like to attend and wondered if anyone else would be interested in going. He will forward the pertinent information to the Board.
- Bob DeBisschop explained that the Lions' Club is putting their past minutes on a disc and would like to store it with the Oxford Historical Society for safekeeping. Richard Crane suggested we should make a copy of donations from town organizations and keep them at another site as well.
- Marilyn Serus stated that Joy DeMaio has Oxford House and Ambulance Association memorabilia to donate to the Society.
- Marilyn Serus volunteered to take a loom to a Lions' Club meeting to demonstrate weaving, so they will see what they donated to us.
- Cindy Joy circulated a flyer from the Seymour Historical Society.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

There were no comments from the general membership.

ADJOURNMENT

Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we adjourn; second by Marilyn Serus. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary