

Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2012
The Homestead

PLEASE BRING A COPY OF THESE MINUTES WITH YOU TO THE NEXT OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012.

The meeting was called to order by President Louise Burr at 7 p.m., following a potluck supper attended by approximately 15 people.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Marilyn Serus moved that the secretary's report be approved as read; second by Cindy Joy. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Farnum moved that the treasurer's report be approved; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop circulated plans and pictures of the shed to be built behind the Homestead on the same floor. Recently approved by the OHS executive board, it will be built by Ed Rowland, Bob DeBisschop and others.

Dorothy will be setting up work sessions for floor refinishing.

Nancy Farnum volunteered to ask her husband Bob about installing a series of pegs for hanging up coats. Barbara Robinson offered wooden pegs.

Dorothy explained that we are shifting from construction to processing artifacts for the museum. A discussion followed concerning the DeVaux Gas Station display case which belongs to us but currently located at the Seymour Historical Society. We need help in moving it back. Ed Rowland stated that he had checked it out. It is very heavy and not safe to move on a pickup.

Cindy Joy and Dottie DeBisschop are going to talk to our insurance agent on Friday, January 27, to discuss our museum insurance. The policy covers a number of items we don't own.

The tenant and contracted service agreements are still being finalized.

Grant Reports – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. Connecticut Community Foundation – The Connecticut Community Foundation has provided funds for our Grand Opening. This includes reinactor David Loda as General David Humphreys, the cost of renting a large tent, and a sheep shearing and spinning demonstration. She requested help with parking.

- b. Valley Community Foundation grant Seeking Funds for Voices insert for Grand Opening – This grant will cover the costs of a 4 page insert in Voices. Dorothy DeBisschop has created the work list which we are required to file. Dorothy asked for volunteers to help with the 2 day event.
- c. Valley Community Foundation Emergency Grant Request for Roof Repair – We have asked for \$5,000 to re-shingle our roof in conjunction with our chimney repair. No answer has been received as yet.

Membership Report – Marilyn Serus -- Eighty-two membership forms were mailed out at the close of December, 2011. By January 19, we have received the following:

- 9 individual memberships
- 11 senior memberships
- 7 family memberships
- 3 donations totaling \$ 60
- 1 book purchase of \$10.

Before the December mailing, we have collected:

- 4 family memberships
- 2 senior memberships
- 1 individual memberships.

We have 14 life members.

Any Other Reports – There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

“Oxford History Remembered”: -- Dorothy DeBisschop – Louise Burr completed the word search for the index. The book is comprised in large part of articles Dorothy wrote for Oxford Patch, with a few individual chapters by others. The cost will be \$20. We should have the book ready for sale 6-8 weeks after submitting it to the publisher.

Proposed Oxford historic Properties Commission – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop approached the Board of Selectmen, asking them to create a Historic Properties District. Under this proviso, individual property owners can register their homes, guaranteeing that they cannot be turned commercial. Properties are registered one at a time by their owners, and overseen by a board with a secretary. It would cover houses that are historically, culturally, or architecturally significant. There is no set age. It will probably go into effect in the Fall of 2012.

Grand Opening: May 5, 6 – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop explained that General Humphreys reinactor will make several appearances on May 5 to ease our limited parking constraints. She asked for help with the shearing, spinning and weaving demonstrations on May 6. We are borrowing spinning wheels, including a reproduction wheel for people to try out, and are looking for a source of drop spindles. Refreshments will be served. Exhibits will be in place so that guests can see our goals in opening the museum.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Livestock Club Pot luck Supper Invitation: Tuesday, February 7 at 7 P>M> in Meeting Room 1 at the Town Hall – Dorothy DeBisschop -- Dorothy DeBisschop explained that the Livestock Club was striving to network with other local organizations, and invited our members to attend this potluck supper.

Blakeslee, Arpaia and Chapman Photo Request – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop explained that Blakeslee, Arpaia and Chapman are the current version of the construction firm who built the Stevenson Dam. They have requested copies of our photos; she would like to see what they have that we could add to our archives. She asked for help from the membership to get to their offices in Branford.

Any Other New Business

Marilyn Stebar asked members to save any commemorative items from Oxford organizations and events.

ADJOURNMENT

Marilyn Serus moved that we adjourn; 2nd by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Following the meeting, members shared stories of animals they have known.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary