

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 24, 2014
The Homestead**

Please bring a copy of these minutes to our next meeting on Monday, January 26, 2014.

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

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the minutes of our previous meeting be approved; second by Marilyn Stebar. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy – Marilyn Serus moved that the treasurer's report for October, 2014 be accepted; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

a. Windows Replacement Plan – The windows are nearly complete. Ed Rowland painted the exposed wood around the upstairs windows. He will install the attic windows at the same time he takes down the Christmas decorations.

b. Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom – Volunteers are continuing warping the loom. Christine Wilconson has been weaving a dish towel in the same pattern at home for display.

c. Attic Access – We have a quote from our furnace man, Brian Passerini, for moving the duct work, but it was not detailed. Ed Rowland is concerned about safety issues if we enter from the stair landing and suggests that a commercial dropdown ladder be installed in the existing hole to the attic in his apartment kitchen.

d. Compost Cage for Leaves – Dorothy felt this was not needed at this time since Ed Rowland mowed the leaves on the lawn.

Membership Report – Barbara Robinson – We have 2 new members for a total of 6 who joined in 2014. When Janice and Ed Hardy made a donation that will be matched by Ed's employer, General Electric.

Any Other Reports – Dorothy DeBisschop was contacted by an antique shop owner who has a book belonging to Ruth Heck who died at age 11 and is buried in Seymour Union Cemetery. The inscription in the book asks the finder to return the book to Ruth, and the antique dealer is attempting to locate her family. Dorothy asked if anyone was familiar with the name, but no one in the group had any information.

The Seymour Historical Society has 2 duplicate bound volumes of the Seymour Record which they are donating to us.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents – Marilyn Stebar, Dorothy DeBisschop – No report.

"Early houses of Oxford" Book Update – Marilyn Stebar – Half the houses have been photographed. Continuing this part of the project will depend on the weather. Marilyn is

checking to see who has submitted information. The Committee will begin meeting after the holidays.

Permanent Museum Sign – John Konicki – No report.

Civil War Armistice Anniversary Celebration – John Konicki -- The initial choir meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, and 7 p.m. at the Homestead. Jack and Louise Burr are hoping for a good turnout. A book of songs to be included in the event is being prepared.

Tee Shirt and Sweatshirt Committee – Marilyn Stebar – Colors are being discussed. Marilyn will get swatches to help make the decision.

Book Talk: "Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples" by Lucianne Lavin, on Sunday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church Hall – Final Report – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy felt the program a great success that people enjoyed. She was pleased that as many attended as have come for a Civil War talk. Our organization gave St. Peter's \$50 for the use of the hall, leaving us with \$71 in profits, plus our sales table profits. We need to be ready to apply for a grant for the Civil War Armistice program in January or February.

Holiday Bazaar : First and Third Sundays in December from 2-4 p.m. – Marilyn Serus and Barbara Robinson – Marilyn and Barbara will come in and set up soon. Marilyn has prepared baskets for a silent auction. Nancy Farnum is meeting with the Garden Club on Friday and will set a date with them to decorate next week. Ed Rowland will get down our decorations. Nancy Farnum will send out publicity.

Election Day Booth – Final Report – Cindy Joy – We made \$163 at this event. Our location was a problem as people leaving the polls were on the other side of the parking lot. Nancy Farnum will speak with the registrar of voters about this before the next election.

Report from Nominations Committee: Slate of Officers for 2015 and Vote – Dorothy DeBisschop and Marilyn Serus – Dorothy sent an e-mail asking for nominations for executive board positions or volunteers. Having received none, we have the same slate of officers as 2014 except that Jack Konicki has resigned from his position as member at large. Dorothy asked for nominations from the floor, and when there were none, moved that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers; second by Marilyn Stebar. All in favor.

2015 Officers and Board of Directors

President: Louise Burr

First Vice-President: Marilyn Serus

Second Vice-President: Dorothy DeBisschop

Recording Secretary: Nancy Farnum

Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Robinson

Treasurer: Cindy Joy

Assistant Treasurer: Vacant

Historian: Nancy Farnum

Board member at Large: Richard Crane

Board member at Large: Marilyn Stebar

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

NEW BUSINESS

No December Meeting

Potluck Supper on Monday, January 26, 2015 – The group agreed to hold this event at the Homestead. We will send out e-mails after the Executive Board meets in January with final details.

Any Other New Business

Dorothy DeBisschop received a letter from Dorothy Peebles-Pelley announcing a Festival of Art, Culture and Entertainment May 15 – 17. Friday, May 15 is the gala opening from 6-9 p.m. We are invited to display our promotional materials. On Saturday, May 16, an outdoor craft show will be held. We are invited to have a tent on the grounds. On Sunday, May 17, the Cultural Arts Committee is partnering with the Oxford Grange for musical and theater events. The Historical Society is invited to have a table there. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we accept this invitation to participate; second by Marilyn Stebar. All in favor.

Marilyn Serus moved that we adjourn; second by Barbara Robinson. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

While refreshments were served, members viewed the exhibit: “Found Under the Christmas Tree: Toys from Oxford’s Past.”