

Please bring a copy of these minutes with you to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Attendance: Present: Louise Burr, Richard Crane, Dorothy DeBisschop, Cindy Joy, Barbara Robinson, Marilyn Stebar. Absent: Nancy Farnum, Marilyn Serus. Guest: Bob DeBisschop

CALL TO ORDER

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

There were no comments.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Under the Fundraising and Development Report, the minutes were changed to read “Give local and Give Greater on May 3-4”. Cindy Joy moved that the minutes for the February 16, 2016 meeting be approved as corrected; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy – Since the end of January, we have received \$220 from can and bottle redemptions. In the near future we will need to pay Phoenix Propane, our insurance, and the lump sum for Ed's maintenance fee. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we renew our membership in the Connecticut League of Historical Organizations; second by Richard Crane. All in favor. Dorothy DeBisschop moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for January, 2016; second by Barbara Robinson. All in favor.

Fundraising and Development Report – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy wants to participate only in the Connecticut Community Foundation's Give Local Program this year. She has been attending Valley Development meetings and learning how to write a grant. She would like to apply for a large grant within a year. She also has checked about setting up an endowment through the Valley Community Foundation. The Lions Club voted to donate funds for a Cricket Loom. She will approach the Rotary Club and other organizations to sponsor another, hoping to have them by Sheep to Shawl Day. Dorothy explained that our programs need to appeal to all ages, hopefully resulting in an increase in membership. Cricket looms are small, working looms.

Membership Report – Barbara Robinson – Twenty-seven membership forms were mailed out and twenty-four were returned.

Museum Open Hours Report – About 40 people attended our “Abraham Lincoln: His Life and Legacy” talk by Charie Rippel. Dorothy DeBisschop will make a certificate of appreciation for Barbara Robinson to send with a thank you note. It is discussed that holding a general meeting after an event as well attended as this would be impossible. Cindy Joy suggested holding a short business meeting for the general membership during our regular open house hours. A date was set for March 20 at 2 p.m. Dorothy DeBisschop volunteered to give a short presentation on sheep shearing.

OLD BUSINESS

Longtime Residents Videotapes – Marilyn Stebar, Marilyn Serus, Dorothy DeBisschop – No report.

Permanent Museum Sign – Marilyn Stebar – Jack Konicki and Ron Stebar are working on the sign and the project is moving along. Jack has the parts and is assembling it. Richard Crane volunteered to help with installation.

“Early Houses of Oxford” Revision – Marilyn Stebar – Dorothy DeBisschop offered to type up the entries for houses that need only updates on the owners and the addresses. The committee meets every two weeks.

Kitchenette Possibilities – Nancy Farnum and Cindy Joy – Ed Rowland says that the electrician is very busy but will get back to him.

Docents Needed for Upcoming Open Days – Nancy Farnum – The signup sheet was circulated.

Reprinting Litchfield's "History of the Town of Oxford, Connecticut" -- Dorothy DeBisschop – Richard Crane proofread the first two chapters and sent them to Cindy Joy who had difficulties with the attachment.

Dorothy DeBisschop will send the next two chapters to Richard Crane.

Sunday, February 7: Lincoln Program with Charlie Rippel; Display of Marcia Wrogg's Lincoln Collection – Final Report – About 40 people attended this program and the presenter did a great job. Marcia's Lincoln portraits added a great deal to the event.

"Windows of the Word of God": Book Talk, Wednesday, January 27 – Final Report – Dorothy DeBisschop attended the program and received a nice letter from Pauline Manville. Pauline will also make the presentation at the Senior Center.

Dorothy DeBisschop will be speaking to the Garden Club at the Senior Center on Tuesday evening, February 23.

Trifold Status – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy passed out a revised museum information trifold to the group, asking them to proofread it and return it to her with corrections. She intends to hand it out with membership forms at the Garden Club presentation on February 23.

Any Other Old Business – Cindy Joy inventoried our sales items. We need copies of "Oxford History Remembered" and "Images of Oxford". Dorothy DeBisschop will purchase new stock.

NEW BUSINESS

"Sheep to Shawl" Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17 – Dorothy DeBisschop – A sheep shearer and sheep and a weaver have been booked for the day. Those interested in weaving will meet with Dottie, including all docents so that they would have a knowledge of the loom for the future. Barbara Robinson asked about natural dyes. Dorothy is looking into this. Dorothy will ask Phil Rowland about borrowing his tent that matches our in case of inclement weather. Publicity will be set before our next meeting. Bob DeBisschop suggested that the Lion's Club help with that day. Marilyn Stebar moved that we work with the Lion's Club; second by Richard Crane. All in favor.

Letter to the Selectmen Requesting \$1,500 in the 2016-17 Budget for Office Furniture – Dorothy DeBisschop and Cindy Joy – Louise Burr delivered the letter to the Selectmen requesting funds for office furniture. Dorothy DeBisschop is looking for a screen.

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Louise Burr is circulating the calendar catalog. Orders will be sent in by mid-May.

We need to do the annual inspection of the upstairs apartment. Dorothy DeBisschop will oversee the paperwork; she and Cindy Joy will do the inspection.

Louise Burr's son Elias Nyberg is donating a WPA photograph of the Washburn Tavern, postcards of the Congregational Church and Camp Palmer and an 1835 contract concerning the Oxford Turnpike. We will send him our donation form for tax purposes.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we adjourn; second by Richard Crane. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Stebar
Acting Secretary