

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2013 7 p.m.
The Homestead**

PLEASE BRING A COPY OF THIS AGENDA WITH YOU.

REPORTS

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

Treasurer's Report – Marilyn Serus handed out the Treasurer's Report in Cindy Joy's absence. She noted that because of a computer glitch, Alert Alarms billed us for the past 6 months' service, having not sent a bill 3 months ago. Marilyn Serus moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved; second by Nancy Farnum. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. **Windows Replacement Grant Status** – The Valley Community Foundation approved our grant request for approximately \$3,000. Our grant application for the same amount from the Matthies Foundation is pending. At the end of June, we will submit a third grant application to the Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation. Depending on which grants we receive and how much money we have, we will proceed with replacing the Homestead windows.
- b. **Garden Issues** – We no longer have the services of a Master Gardener to help maintain our gardens. We need volunteers for weeding and other upkeep.
- c. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – The Seymour Historical Society is eager to get the loom out of their garage. Dorothy contacted Judy Mason who has offered to rebuild the loom and explained that we are willing to transport it to the museum. She has not had a reply. We would like Judy's approval before going forward with the project.
- d. **Poison Ivy Spray** – Dorothy DeBisschop purchased Ortho spray for poison ivy growing in the yard. It cannot be used near animals.

Membership Report – There have been no new memberships.

Any Other Reports – There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents – Marilyn Stebar – Last week Marilyn Stebar, Marilyn Serus and Dorothy DeBisschop interviewed 3 women at the Senior Center from Bridgeport, New York City and New Hampshire, discussing how World War II changed their mother's lives. Each of their mothers went off to work in the morning, all dressed up. It was noted that relationships on the assembly lines were very formal, with workers calling each other "Miss" or "Mrs." Women became accustomed to having their own money to spend, and made long-deferred purchases. When the war ended, they had to leave their jobs to provide employment for returning servicemen.

New Notepaper with Photographs – Volunteers to Help Fold and Assemble – Louise Burr and Dorothy DeBisschop will write a description for each picture for the back of the stationery,

using information from Early Houses of Oxford. Packets will hold 2 each of photos of 5 Oxford landmarks. Barbara Robinson volunteered to help fold and compile the cards. We will have them for sale on Oxford Day, June 8.

Calendar Sales – Louise Burr – We have sold over 60 calendars. The order will go in by next week.

Tag Sale – Saturday, June 22, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Homestead Grounds. Rain Date: June 29 – (Marcia Wrogg and Jane Hulbert (Sign-Up Sheets) – Sign-up sheets were distributed for parking, food and beverage sales, set-up, organization and sale of our own tag sale items, set-up, and docents. Marcia Wrogg will put a classified ad in Voices. Dorothy **DeBisschop** will put information about the tag sale on her blog on Patch. Ellie Sturges offered to put an ad in the Newtown Bee. Marcia noted that all beverages will be \$1.

Oxford Day Planning – June 8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Oxford High School. Volunteers Needed (Sign-up Sheets) – Dorothy DeBisschop – There will be no bake sale for Oxford Day. A trifold brochure advertising the Homestead is being prepared.

Gordon Williams Program – Marilyn Serus – Jane Hulbert has the information about various Gordon Williams presentations in the area and is checking to see if she can attend one to see if he is someone we would like to hire.

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

New Business

Livestock Association Picnic Invitation – Friday, June 14, 6 p.m. at Dorothy Vallee's Home – (Sign-Up Sheet) – The Livestock Association has invited our group to join them for their annual picnic. It was noted that this is a good connection for us to maintain. We hope to ask them to exhibit their animals at some future date, and Dorothy Vallee has offered to provide wagon rides at one of our events. They also helped us with our Grand Opening.

Any Other New Business

Civil War Songs – Marilyn Serus and Jack Konicki attended a Civil War Song Program in Southbury and declared it excellent. The performer accompanied himself on guitar and banjo. If we are looking for a program, this would be one to consider.

Cultural Arts Art Show – Louise Burr announced that the Oxford Cultural Arts Committee is sponsoring a juried art show on May 24 and 25 at the Town Hall. The Executive Board voted to show our support with a \$35 donation.

ADJOURNMENT

Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we adjourn; second by Marilyn Serus. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Following refreshments kindly provided by Loretta Rowland, Dorothy DeBisschop presented a program about Oxford's Adeline Gray, World War II parachute tester.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary

