

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 28, 2013, 7 p.m.
The Homestead**

**Please bring a copy of these minutes to the next meeting on Monday, November 25, 2013.
Thank you.**

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

REPORTS

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

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy – Nancy Farnum moved that the treasurer's report be approved; second by Marilyn Serus. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. **Windows Replacement Plan** – We have received 2 grants totaling \$6,000 which will cover replacing the windows in the 2 front rooms on the first floor and several windows on the second floor. It also will help us improve the large window in the main meeting room. The windows are in at Oxford Paint and Hardware. We will need volunteers to paint them before they are installed.
- b. **Driveway Paving Grant Application and Plan** – Robbie Robinson measured and estimates the cost of paving the driveway at \$6,000. Dorothy has prepared a Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation grant application for \$4,500. The executive board has set aside \$1,000 from our treasury for this purpose; we will need to raise \$500. The application is due at the end of October. We will receive an answer in December. Dorothy explained that we will get firm bids when we are closer to actually having the work done next spring.
- c. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom Project Report** – The loom project is going slowly. The volunteers have determined how to get the warp on the heddles.
- d. **Garden Volunteer and Intern:** Laura Dion – Nancy Farnum – Laura Dion continues to deadhead and cut back the spent plants in our garden. She plans to speak with Dorothy DeBisschop about the herb and wild flower gardens.
- e. **Brick Mapping Project** – Jack Konicki – Cindy Joy presented Jack's report in his absence. Cindy displayed and explained how to use the maps and the master list. These will be kept in the podium.

Membership Report – Marilyn Serus – We have had one new member join the group since our last meeting. Membership forms will be mailed in January.

Any Other Reports – Myrtle Rowland asked if we had considered membership cards. Nancy Farnum answered that she had spoken with Town Clerk Margaret West and found that Oxford Historical Society membership cards would serve no purpose in accessing birth and death records. Connecticut requires membership proof from a recognized genealogical organization such as the Godfrey Library.

OLD BUSINESS

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents – Marilyn Stebar, Jane Hulbert, Marcia Wrogg – Dorothy DeBisschop suggested that Myrtle Rowland interview Leah Seabury on Thursday. The group will get back to Dorothy once calendars are checked. Marcia will contact Carol Zwick soon. It was suggested that Mary Kennedy be visited while she is housebound. Dorothy videotaped Fred, Phil and Marion Rowland (Fritz) earlier this month. She would like to follow this with interviews of Fred and Myrtle Rowland and Phil and Loretta Rowland. Marion Fritz's watercolors of the original Rowland farm on Christian Street were shown.

H. Reinhardt Lewis Drawings and Paintings Art Show: Final Report – Nancy Farnum – Although the show was free, we took in \$143 over the 2 days in sales and donations. Some of the sites of the paintings were identified. Nancy thanked everyone for their support.

Give Greater Challenges Online Fundraiser: November 12 and 13 – Dorothy DeBisschop – This fundraiser is through the Connecticut Community Foundation, and is a 36 hour opportunity to donate online. The Naugatuck Savings Bank is paying all credit card costs; there is no processing fee. The Connecticut Community Foundation has gathered matching funds. We will be passing out information on Election Day that asks the public to consider making a donation. We have received Gold Star Certification from Guidestar because of the way our financial records are kept. This gives us extra credibility. Giving online has appeal to younger people, and this event will allow us to test the waters to see if it is a fundraising tactic that we should consider in the future. Cindy Joy recommended that we send out an e-mail blast to publicize the event.

Any Other Old Business

Marilyn Serus stated that she had taken our gift basket donation to the Friends of Library in Oxford's holiday raffle to the library today.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Day Polls Sales Booth: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 – A sign-up sheet was passed for volunteers to staff our sales booth. Dorothy DeBisschop explained that our new tent has sides, so it should be warmer than in the past.

Slate of Officers for the 2014 Year – Volunteer Request – Louise Burr asked for volunteers for any executive board position. There were none.

March 8, 2014 Civil War Program: "Connecticut Yankees at Antietam" Author John Banks – Jack Konicki – Marilyn Serus will check with St. Peter's to see if we can hold this event in their hall.

Naugatuck Valley Tour Report – Cindy Joy and Louise Burr – The tour was led by Marion O'Keefe and included parts of Naugatuck, Shelton, Huntington, the Shelton History Center, Derby, and Seymour. Literature about various sites was handed out. Lunch was at the Kellogg Center. The tour ended at Rich Farms. Five members of our Society attended. Marion O'Keefe asked that we support naming the Naugatuck Valley as a National Heritage area. Marilyn Serus suggested that another tour to the Torrington area would be nice.

Any Other New Business

St. Peter's Church Fair Volunteers – Sign-Up – Volunteers were requested for our booth at St. Peter's Church Fair on November 2 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Docent Volunteers – Sign Up – Volunteers were requested as docents for open museum hours on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Gordon Williams Program – Marilyn Serus – Gordon Williams will mail a brochure of his programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Jane Hulbert moved that we adjourn; second by Cindy Joy. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Following refreshments, Dorothy DeBisschop showed a collection of vintage photographs from the Stoddard family and from John Pope.