

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 27, 2014
The Homestead**

Please bring a copy of these minutes to our next meeting on Monday, November 24. Thank you.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the Secretary's Report be approved as read; second by Cindy Joy. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy – Marilyn Serus moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. Windows Replacement Plan** –Citing ladder safety issues, Ed Rowland has offered to paint around the upstairs windows.
- b. Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – No report.
- c. Driveway Paving** –The driveway paving is complete. Many thanks to Rob Robinson for putting in loam around the edges, seeding it and laying straw over it.
- d. Ramp Repair** – Jack Konicki – The ramp repair is completed.
- e. Scraping and Repainting the Front of the House** – No report.
- f. Attic Access** – No report.

Dorothy stated that we need to schedule a fall clean-up day. Ed Rowland has asked to take down some of the cedars behind the Homestead to encourage the apple tree there. Nancy Farnum suggested that we need a place for leaves and lawn debris. Richard Crane recommended a wire mesh cage. Dorothy said that the Derby Boy Scouts have volunteered to do our spring cleanup.

Membership Report – Barbara Robinson – There are no new members.

Any Other Reports – There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

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

"Early Houses of Oxford" Book Update – Marilyn Stebar – The book revision committee will start meeting after the first of the year. Photographing homes for the book will continue tomorrow. Marilyn has been notifying those homeowners who did not respond to the first letter.

Permanent Museum Sign – John Konicki – The metal portion of the sign is being painted in readiness for being lettered.

Civil War Armistice Anniversary Celebration – John Konicki – Jack spoke to Senior Center choir members, but they had no interest in participating. We will have to go to area churches for singers. He is preparing a bulletin for that purpose.

Docents Needed (Signup Sheet) – Nancy Farnum – A signup sheet was circulated for docents.

Tee Shirts and Sweatshirt Committee – Marilyn Stebar – No report.

Book Talk: "Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples" by Lucianne Lavin, on Sunday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church Hall – Dorothy DeBisschop – We will set up at 1:30 p.m. Publicity and posters for the event are out. After her formal talk, Lucianne Lavin will discuss artifacts brought in by members of the audience.

Holiday Bazaar: First and Third Sundays in December from 2-4 p.m. – Marilyn Serus and Barbara Robinson – Marilyn Serus brought possible contents for baskets and asked for

suggestions following our meeting. Members are asked to bring in “nearly new” items, ornaments, and other donations at the November meeting or to the program on November 9.

Washband Tavern Open house Wednesday, October 22, from 2-7 p.m. to Celebrate the Building’s 300th Anniversary – Final Report -- Dorothy DeBisschop – Docents went through the building on Monday and gave tours on Wednesday to 87 people. Everyone was very impressed with the beautifully restored and preserved building. Cindy Joy read a note of thanks from Nancy Daoud and Associates and announced that they had given us a \$500 donation. Donna Miles Blood spoke with Marilyn Serus about further history of the tavern. Marilyn will follow up on this. Nancy Farnum moved that the Historical Society purchase a brick in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the tavern; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Election Day Booth -- Dorothy DeBisschop – We will cancel our booth at the polls if the weather is poor on Election Day. Members volunteered to bake and to tend the booth.

Committee to Choose a Slate of Officers for 2015 – Louise Burr – Marilyn Serus and Dorothy DeBisschop asked for members to contact them for suggestions for officers or for volunteers. The Executive Board would like to add an assistant treasurer and possibly another member at large. Marilyn Serus suggested that we develop a student activity group or a junior docent program which would hopefully encourage involvement of parents as well. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts working on badges are another possibility.

Volunteer to Provide Refreshments for the November 24 Meeting – Marilyn Serus volunteered to provide refreshments for the November 24 meeting.

Any Other New Business

Louise Burr attended the Seymour Historical Society program “ Building a Big Dam” about the construction of the Stevenson dam and reported that it was very well attended, particularly by men.

We received a letter from the Friends of the Library in Oxford asking for a gift basket donation for their Christmas raffle fundraiser. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we give them the equivalent of what we have done in the past; second by Richard Crane. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy Farnum moved that we adjourn; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Following refreshments, members viewed the Museum’s newest Exhibit :” Hiding Under Our Feet: Artifacts from Oxford’s Native American Past”.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary