

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 27, 2015
The Homestead**

Please bring a copy of these minutes to our next meeting on Monday, August 24, 2015.

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

REPORTS

Secretary's Report: Marilyn Serus moved that the minutes of the June 22, 2015 meeting be approved as amended; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Farnum moved that the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2015 be approved; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. **Reconstruction of the Jensen Family Loom** – Progress is slow on warping the loom.
- b. **Scrape and Paint Paneling in the Twitchell Room** – Nancy Farnum – If painter Kelly Prajer has not called by Labor Day, Nancy Farnum will contact him to set a date for the painting.
- c. **Kitchenette Project** – Nancy Farnum and Cindy Joy – Nancy Farnum contacted Ed Rowland asking if he had gotten estimates for the kitchenette. Ed did not reply.

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

Any Other Reports

We have acquired a new printer/copier/scanner and a supply of toner. A new laptop is on order. These items were purchased with ~~out~~ our annual line item allocation from the Oxford Town Budget.

OLD BUSINESS

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

"Early Houses of Oxford" Book Update – Marilyn Stebar – Marilyn and photographer Paul Doyle have been out two times and have gone through all of the houses included in the old book plus more that were not included. They still need to go back to houses missed on previous photo shoots.

Permanent Museum Sign – Marilyn Stebar – Ron Stebar has agreed to finish and install our museum sign. He will need to borrow Rob Robinson's post hole digger.

Docents Needed for Upcoming Open Museum Days – Nancy Farnum – It was suggested that Jane Hulbert and Ellie Sturges be given keys and security codes so that they can let themselves in and out when they are serving as docents. A signup sheet was circulated for volunteers for open museum hours.

Peach Festival – August 29, St. Peter's Church Hall, 4-7 p.m.

a. **Designation of proceeds to a Permanent Capital Fund** – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop met with the Connecticut Community Foundation to discuss establishing a fund for museum maintenance expenses in the future. The Valley Community Foundation could also serve as a repository. Dorothy moved that we use our profits from the Peach Festival to

establish this fund. The Treasurer will keep track of the monies until we have set up an account with one of the foundations. Nancy Farnum seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. Food and Supplies – Nancy Farnum – Louise Burr will purchase the peaches. We will ask Rich Farm for a donation of two tubs of peach ice cream. Karen Keenan will make the shortcake. We will sell coffee, tea and bottled water.

c. Display (Early Houses of Oxford) and Decorations – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy has the first set of Paul Doyle's photos, the 1997 photos of the houses pictured in the original book, all the original photos from "Early Houses of Oxford", some photos and text from the WPA survey and some photos from the Orange Historical Society for display.

d. Publicity – Publicity – Members were asked to take posters to distribute around town.

e. Committees – Nancy Farnum – Signup sheets were passed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Change in General Meeting Schedule – Cindy Joy – Cindy Joy expressed her idea that with the Homestead nearly completed that it was time to move forward with programs that are closer to our mission and a brief business meeting afterwards as needed. Her hope is that more people would come to interesting events. All are welcome to attend Executive Board meetings. Richard Crane stated that he thought this might appeal to non-members who might wish to join as a result of attending a program. Cindy suggested scheduling programs for February and April. In June we currently have the Flea Market, and in August, the Peach Festival. Another program would be planned for October, and in December we now have our holiday bazaar and open house. Barbara Robinson requested that the whole group think of program suggestions. Richard Crane recommended that we ask for programming suggestions from those members who do not regularly attend our meetings. Marilyn Stebar felt we might need a meeting before large events like the flea market, or perhaps this business can be handled at the Executive Board meeting. Barbara Robinson moved that we have the information for a Bylaws change available at our next meeting that would allow us to change our meeting schedule for more programming; second by Dorothy DeBisschop. All in favor.

Any Other New Business – There was no other new business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Following the meeting, refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary