

Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.
2014 FOSA Annual Membership Meeting
January 25, 2014
Location; Smith Middle School, Glastonbury, CT.

Board Members Present: Pres. Cynthia Redman, Vice Pres. Mandy Ranslow, Treas. Dreda Hendsey, Recording Sect. Jim Trocchi, Mike Cahill, Dick Hughes, Jeremy Pilver, Mike Raber, Paul Scannell, Kathy Walburn, Heather Alexon.

Board Members Absent: Scott Brady

Ex officio Board Members Present: Nick Bellantoni (OSA), Lee West (ASC).

Call to Order: President Cynthia Redman called the membership meeting to order at 1:00 PM. She thanked the Glastonbury School System for the use of the fine Smith Middle School and the assistance of their auditorium technical help. Cynthia announced the planned October bus trip to visit the Meadowcroft Rockhelter in Pennsylvania. She also praised the FOSA volunteers for contributing over 2900 hours in 2013 to assist the OSA. Finally, she announced that with Nick planning on retiring on August 31, 2014 this year, this is his last Annual Meeting as State Archaeologist. She acknowledged him for his nonpareil dedication to his office and presented him a gift of 2 tickets to see "Songs of Sinatra" at the Infinity Music Theater in Norfolk, CT.

Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Jim Trocchi presented a summary of FOSA's activities for 2013.

It is my pleasure as recording secretary to inform FOSA membership at this time every year of our activities, events and accomplishments. Throughout the year we are involved in many projects to assist the OSA to carry out its mission. We accomplish this through outreach, newsletters and website, along with requesting volunteers to assist at events, field excavations and organizing the OSA repository at the UCONN HBH Library and Laboratory. Here is a brief 2013 summary of your FOSA membership at work supporting the OSA.

First, 2013 began with Connecticut's premiere archaeology event, the FOSA Annual Meeting. The 16th Annual Meeting was held on January 26th. The Feature event commenced at 2:00 PM with Dr. Bellantoni introducing keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Houston, Professor of Anthropology at Brown University. The talk was, "Death Comes to a King: A Classic Maya Tomb at El Diablo, Guatemala" The talk was followed by a 20 minute question and answer session. An audience of about 150 to 200 people attended.

Secondly, during the year, FOSA's Outreach Committee attends various events around CT., to increase our exposure and inform the public of FOSA's work through various displays. It is headed by FOSA members Ken and Bonnie Beatrice who deserve a huge thanks for the dedication and time. I think many of you became FOSA members through their efforts. The committee participated in the following events during 2013:

CT Gravestone Network Symposium 2013 on April 6, 2013 at the South Senior Center, East Hartford.

"Day on the Green" at the Westbrook Historical Society July 13, 2013. In appreciation of their participation, the Westbrook Historical Society graciously waved the \$30.00 exhibitor/vendor fee.

An exhibit and PowerPoint at the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill on the evening of July 30, 2013.

A lecture about the Phytoplankton (free-floating aquatic plants) Monitoring Network was presented by Ken Beatrice on August 10.

“Hammonasset Festival 2013 ~ Celebrating Nature & Native America” on October 5 & 6, 2013 at Hammonasset State Park, Madison

And on October 19th at the Archaeology Fair in the Keene Memorial Culture Center in Wethersfield the committee featured an artifact display of colonial, industrial and other archaeology sites.

All of the above events opened an opportunity for attendees to help themselves to FOSA brochures, Archaeology Fair fliers and FOSA organization and membership information. Additionally, a DVD slide presentation of FOSA volunteers in action.

Third, our Newsletter goes out twice a year to all our members to keep them informed, interested and appreciate Connecticut's archaeology scene. On behalf of the Newsletter Committee of Mandy Ranslow, Mae Johnson, Kristen Keegan, Jerry Tolchin and myself, we hope you enjoy and look forward to it. If there is anything we can do to improve it, please let us know.

The fourth item is our website. FOSA Webmaster and member Jim Hall continues to do a very meticulous job on our website. The user will realize after viewing it that it contains almost everything FOSA has ever done and been involved in since its inception. It is extremely comprehensive. Our thanks to Jim for diligently monitoring and keeping it current.

Next I like to extend a big thank you to our Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator Mandy Ranslow. Throughout the year she has sent emails of FOSA excavation announcements and associated information to solicit dig volunteers at sites all over the state. Additionally, she again organized this years well attended Archaeology Fair on October, 19th at the Keene Center.

Another big task that is under the direction of President Cynthia Redman, volunteers and a FOSA funded UCONN work-study student is the OSA Library and Lab at HBH. It continues to be more organized. Incoming books, journals, periodicals, CDs and DVDs are cataloged, given call numbers, entered into the computer database and filed appropriately away.

The major accent this year has been on and will continue in the future to tackle the large backlog of CT. site reports. With the help of a UCONN work-study student these reports are under going re-labeling, renumbering and any other needed corrections where needed and then entered into the GIS database. Further, there is a large backlog of new site reports to be entered into the GIS database.

Finally, this season's field excavations, from May to October, led by Dr. Bellantoni occurred at sites in Windsor, Westbrook, Middletown and East Hartford to mention a few. They were all well attended by FOSA volunteers. Also, In the week of June 17-20th, GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) investigations were performed at several sites in CT and one in MA. Under principal investigators: Nicholas Bellantoni, Jim Doolittle, Research Soil Scientist for the USDA and Debbie Surabian, State Soil Scientist for the USDA and FOSA volunteers, the following sites were investigated.

Indian Hill Cemetery and Adath Israel Cemetery in Middletown,
A police cold case site in Manchester,
Adam Stanton House in Clinton

South Burying Ground in Hartford
Albany Road Burying Ground in Deerfield, Massachusetts.
19th Century Mine tunnel site near Litchfield
Deer Run site in Warren

In summary, FOSA volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours in 2013 to support of OSA.

On behalf of the BOD, we thank all FOSA members for their support throughout the year. Without your support, our mission to assist the OSA would not be possible.

Treasurer's Report: Dreda Hendsey presented the annual Treasurer's Report to the membership. A motion was made to accept her report by Mike Raber and seconded by Mike Cahill. Motion passed.

Nick's Report: Nick thanked everyone for the Sinatra tickets.

He announced the opening of the John Spaulding photo exhibit at the CMNHAC museum in honor of his dedicated photo work for FOSA and OSA.

Nick gave out figures of the various work his office has been called upon in 2013: 359 economic reviews, 106 town surveys, 66 presentations to an audience of 4,245, spent 45 days of excavations, attended 186 meetings and field reviews and assisted in 10 police investigations.

He gave thanks and appreciation to FOSA for their assistance to his office.

Finally, with the final term of President Cynthia Redman ending, he praised and thanked her for a job well done.

ASC Report: Lee West explained ASC's goal as promoting CT archaeology by way of its bi-annual meetings and publications like its yearly bulletin. He invited everyone to join.

He announced ASC's May 3rd meeting in Barkhamsted. Its format will be a morning meeting with talks on mining minerals and an afternoon walk with Kenny Feder to a soapstone quarry.

Nomination Committee: Mike Cahill stated that Mike Raber's, Mandy Ranslow's, Mike Cahill's and Jeremy Pilvers two year term on the BOD has come to an end and a motion was made to reelect them for another 2 years. A motion was made by Dick Hughes to reelect these 4 individuals to another term and seconded by Dreda Hendsey. The motion was passed.

Another motion was made by Jeremy Pilver to elect Kathy Walburn, Scott Brady and Heather Alexon as new BOD members to a 2 year term. It was seconded by Dick Hughes. The motion was passed.

Finally, Mike announced the new slate of FOSA officers: President Mandy Ranslow, Vice President Jeremy Pilver, Recording Secretary Mike Cahill and Treasurer Dreda Hendsey.

2014 FOSA Achievement Award: Mandy announced that Pauline Buchanan is the recipient of this years FOSA Achievement Award. Pauline was absent.

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 PM by Mike Raber, seconded by Dreda Hensey. Motion passed.

The FOSA membership meeting was followed at 2:00 PM by our keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Silliman of UMASS Boston. He was introduced by Dr. Bellantoni before a well attended audience. Dr. Silliman's very interesting and informative talk was entitled "Change, Continuity, Collaboration: Studying Eastern Pequot History in Southeastern Connecticut"

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Trocchi, Recording Secretary.