

2015 FOSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Farmington High School

10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

February 22, 2015

Board Members Present: President Mandy Ranslow, Vice Pres. Jeremy Pilver, Recording Sec. Mike Cahill, Scott Brady, Dick Hughes, Brian Meyer, Mike Raber, Cynthia Redman, Jim Trocchi.

Board Members Absent: Treas. Dreda Hendsey, Heather Alexson, Kathy Walburn.

Ex officio Board Members Present: Brian Jones (OSA), Nick Bellantoni (ASC).

Call to Order: President Mandy Ranslow called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. The members who attended this rescheduled meeting were welcomed.

Treasurer's Report: The report was unavailable at this time.

Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Mike Cahill read the following report on FOSA's activities and achievements during the past year.

The year began with FOSA's 17th Annual Meeting held January 25, 2014 in Glastonbury. Three new members of FOSA's Board of Directors were elected during that meeting, Scott Brady, Heather Alexson, and Kathy Walburn. The guest speaker following the meeting, was Doctor Stephen Silliman, Professor of Anthropology at UMass, Boston. The subject of his talk was Change, Continuity, and Collaboration: Studying Eastern Pequot History in Southeastern Connecticut. The talk was well attended, and the audience included members of the Pequot Nation.

FOSA volunteers work at the archaeology laboratory at UConn during the winter months, inspecting, cleaning and cataloging artifacts recovered during previous excavations. FOSA also funded a work study student who has been busy organizing the CT town site reports

The library has been completely updated and organized through the efforts of Cynthia Redman and Carol West.

FOSA's Outreach Committee, led by Ken and Bonnie Beatrice, and including many FOSA volunteers, had another busy year. This committee sets up displays dealing with FOSA's mission, and history pertaining to Connecticut. Some of the venues from the past year include, FOSA's Annual Meeting in January, the Connecticut Gravestone Symposium in March, Bridgeports' First Archaeology Week held at the Beardsley Zoo in May, the Haddam Neck Fair in August, the Hammonasset Festival in October, and the Archaeology Fair at Wesleyan University,

also in October. The Outreach Committee brings FOSA and archaeology to the people of Connecticut.

There was a workshop April 19th for FOSA members on Early Connecticut and American glass. This was held at the Museum of Connecticut Glass in Coventry. Attendees were treated to a very informative, and entertaining history of glassmaking in Connecticut. FOSA also sponsored a series of workshops throughout the year. Topics included excavation report writing, and land research, genealogy, and historical report writing.

There were many ground penetrating radar investigations throughout Connecticut, in May and August. These were led by Jim Doolittle and Debbie Surabian from the US Dept of Agriculture. They were assisted by many FOSA volunteers. The sites investigated were predominantly cemeteries looking for unmarked graves.

Members of FOSA participated in numerous field excavations this past year under the direction of State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, and from late summer on, State Archaeologist Brian Jones. The many excavations included an early June dig in Middle Haddam, looking for the site of an industrial mill. Late June saw members assisting in a dig at St Platon's Church in Danbury which burned in 1921. August was the week-long Archaeology Field School for Adults, sponsored by the CT State Museum of Natural History at the Titus Coen home site in Killingworth. Mid-August was a dig at Chamberlin Mill in Woodstock. There were 2 digs in South Glastonbury. The 1st was a native-American site that was in danger of being destroyed by development. The 2nd was an Archaeology Field day in October for Glastonbury Middle School students near the ferry landing. Besides participating in a real archaeology excavation, students threw the atl atl under the direction of FOSA member Gary Noff.

FOSA sponsored a picnic in honor of Nick's retirement at Wickham Park in East Hartford in early September organized by Kathy Walburn.. Many of Nick's family, friends, and FOSA members attended, and we all had a great time.

A 3 day bus trip to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Avella PA., coordinated by Cynthia Redman was held in October. This was another well attended FOSA event to a 16,000 year old site.

The Annual Archaeology Fair was also held in October. FOSA co-sponsored this along with the Archaeology Society of Connecticut, and Wesleyan University where it was held. Many different archaeology groups, school groups, and historical societies had displays, and it included a series of lectures in coordination with ASCs Fall Meeting..

There are 2 major sources of information on FOSA activities. The Newsletter, and the website. The Newsletter committee, chaired by Jerry Tolchin, produces an issue in the spring and fall, full of articles and information of interest to members. The website, with Jim Hall as committee chairman, continuously updates data on FOSA activities, both past, and upcoming,

copies of the newsletter, newspaper articles on FOSA, and many other items of interest to members and nonmembers.

FOSA members volunteered over 880 hours of cataloging, library, and field work during 2014. The Outreach Committee's hours totaled over 310 for their events.

In closing, FOSA's Board of Directors would like to express its appreciation to all the members who contributed their time, expertise, and energy this past year, to FOSA's mission of supporting the Office of State Archaeology.

ASC Report: Nick Bellantoni talked about his retirement as State Archaeologist, his working with his successor, Brian Jones through a one month transition period, and spoke highly of Brian.

OSA Report: State Archaeologist Brian Jones mentioned he has two interns and a grad student working on collections, one being supported by FOSA. Brian spoke about the emergency dig in South Glastonbury that has been dated to over 4,000 years old. He also mentioned the serious maintenance problems in building #5 at UConn. Brian has been giving lectures throughout the state dealing with Native American history in Connecticut. There is the possibility of a dig in South Windsor at the corner of Route 5 and Sullivan Avenue.

Officer/Director Elections: Scott Brady, Nomination Committee Chair, spoke of Paul Scannell who recently resigned from FOSA's Board of Directors for personal reasons. Paul has many years of service to FOSA in many areas. Thank you Paul. The following were reelected to a two year term on the Board, Dreda Hendsey, Dick Hughes, Cynthia Redman, and Jim Trocchi. Brian Meyer and Glenda Rose were elected to their first two year term.

Achievement Award: Mike Raber presented an award to Cynthia Redman for her three terms as FOSA's president, and for her library reorganization. He also presented an award to Joan McCarthy for her many years as FOSA's corresponding secretary.

Adjournment: President Mandy Ranslow adjourned the meeting at 1:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Cahill, Recording Secretary