

2016 FOSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Farmington High School

10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

January 24, 2016

Board Members Present: Pres. Mandy Ranslow, Vice Pres. Jeremy Pilver, Recording Sec. Mike Cahill, Scott Brady, Dick Hughes, Mike Raber, Cynthia Redman, Glenda Rose, Zac Singer, Jim Trocchi, Kathy Walburn.

Board Members Absent: Treas. Dreda Hendsey, Lori Kessel.

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

Call to Order: President Mandy Ranslow called the meeting to order at 1:05PM. The members who attended this rescheduled meeting were welcomed. Mandy went over the day's program, and then identified some of the highlights of FOSA's past year, and some of the events scheduled for 2016.

Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Mike Cahill read the following report on FOSA's activities and achievements during 2015.

The year began with FOSA's 18th Annual Meeting, held on February 22, 2015 at Farmington High School. There were two new members elected to the Board of Directors during the meeting, Brian Meyer, and Glenda Rose. The guest speaker following the meeting was Doctor Douglas Owsley, head of Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian. The subject of his talk was "Secrets of Kennewick Man: The Investigation of an Ancient American Skeleton." The talk was very interesting and well attended.

FOSA volunteers work at the archaeology laboratory at UConn during the winter months inspecting, cleaning, cataloging, and storing artifacts recovered from previous excavations.

The library, under the direction of Cynthia Redman, is being organized and updated with FOSA volunteers, and a student employee who is funded by FOSA.

The Outreach Committee, coordinated by Heather Alexson, and with the assistance of Ken and Bonnie Beatrice, and other volunteers, set up displays dealing with FOSA's mission, and history pertaining to Connecticut. Some of the venues from the past year include the Connecticut Gravestone Symposium, the Haddam Neck Fair, and the Archaeology Fair at Central Connecticut State University. The Outreach Committee brings FOSA and archaeology to the people of Connecticut.

There were many ground penetrating radar investigations throughout Connecticut led by Debbie Surabian from the US Department of Agriculture, and assisted by FOSA volunteers.

Members of FOSA participated in numerous field excavations this past year under the direction of State Archaeologist Doctor Brian Jones. The many excavations included, a 5 day dig in June around the foundation of the Preston Meeting House, a 2 day dig in late June /early July at the site of a tenement house in Bozrah for Fitchville School kids, a mid-July dig in South Glastonbury with the Historical Society of Glastonbury, and the FOSA Field School along the Connecticut River in Windsor, searching for the location of the original Windsor trading post. FOSA members also assisted at two other events, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History Adult Field School, held in Windsor in August looking for signs of the Windsor palisade, and the Archaeology Field Day in early November for Glastonbury Middle School students near the ferry landing. Besides participating in a real archaeology excavation, students threw the atlatl under the supervision of FOSA member Gary Noff.

The Annual Archaeology Fair was held in October. FOSA co-sponsored the event along with the Archaeology Society of Connecticut, and Central Connecticut State 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 ASC's Fall Meeting.

There are two main 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 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 also was part of a grant process sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office, which resulted in 5 areas being designated State Historical Preserves.

FOSA members volunteered many hundreds of hours of lab work, library, field work, media, and Outreach during 2015.

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.

Treasurer's Report: Assistant Treasurer Jim Trocchi announced FOSA ended the year with a balance of \$21,322.41 in the regular account, and \$1,821.98 in the Douglas Jordan Testing, Dating, and Conservation Fund. No questions on the report.

OSA Report: Brian Jones first spoke of FOSA's paying for the radio carbon dating of the Pope Mastodon, which was discovered in Farmington in 1913. He went on to describe the excavations from the past year that FOSA members participated in. Brian is very excited about the Hollister site in South Glastonbury. He described it as a farming complex which dates from about 1640 to 1721. It will probably be the site of the field schools in August. His focus, this past year, was on organizing the collections. Brian thanked the FOSA members who worked Mondays in the lab during the colder months.

ASC Report: Nick Bellantoni, the President of the Archaeology Society of Connecticut, stated that ASC is presently revamping its website, and will have a link to FOSA. The spring meeting will be at the Kellogg Nature Center, in Derby, CT. The theme will be Industrial Archaeology. There will be presentations in the morning, and a tour of the Seymour Lime Kiln in the afternoon. The Binette Rockshelter Monograph will be published in the fall.

Officer/Director Elections: Scott Brady, Nomination Committee Chair, thanked Brian Meyer, and Heather Alexson, who both resigned from the Board, for their service. The following were re-elected to another 2 year term on the Board: Mandy Ranslow, Jeremy Pilver, Mike Cahill, Mike Raber, and Kathy Walburn. Lori Kessel was elected to her 1st 2 year term. Mandy was re-elected to a 2nd term as president, and Dreda was re-elected as Treasurer.

Achievement Award: Cynthia Redman presented the Achievement Award to Paul Scannell, who was unable to attend due to illness. She spoke of Paul's years on the Board, his participation in excavations, cataloging, and especially research. Congratulations to Paul.

Tribute to June Cooke: Nick Bellantoni first congratulated Paul on his well-deserved award. He then spoke of the passing of Nickolas Kotula, a long-time FOSA member. Nick continued with a heart-felt tribute to June Cooke. He listed her many accomplishments, including being instrumental in the establishment of the Office of State Archaeology, and the founding of FOSA.

Adjournment: President Mandy Ranslow thanked the attendees, and especially the FOSA members who volunteered throughout the year. She adjourned the meeting at 1:52PM.