

2018 FOSA Annual Membership Meeting

Farmington High School

10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

March 24, 2018

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

Board Members Absent: Lori Kessel, Zac Singer.

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

Call to Order: President Mandy Ranslow called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and welcomed the members and guests. She then announced she was stepping down after 2 terms as president and thanked everyone for their support.

Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Mike Cahill read the following report on FOSA's activities during 2017.

FOSA's Annual Meeting was held on March 25, 2017, here at Farmington High School. As this was FOSA's 20th year, President Mandy Ranslow acknowledged, and thanked the original members who were in attendance. The following were re-elected to another 2-year term on the Board of Directors: Dreda Hendsey, Dick Hughes, Cynthia Redman, Glenda Rose, Zac Singer, and Jim Trocchi. FOSA's Achievement Award was presented to Amy Mariotti and Carol West for their many hours of work in the library. The guest speaker following the meeting was Doctor Emerson Baker, Professor of History, at Salem State University. His talk was titled "An Archaeologist's View of Life in 17th Century Maine".

Throughout the winter months, several volunteers assisted at the archaeology laboratory at UConn. There they worked at inspecting, cleaning, sorting, cataloging, and storing artifacts from previous excavations. Additionally, FOSA often funds student workers in the laboratory.

The Office of State Archaeology library, under the direction of Cynthia Redman, and with the help of FOSA volunteers, has been condensed, and reorganized, and parts moved to Beach Hall.

The Outreach Committee, chaired by Kathy Walburn, and with the help of many volunteers, set up displays at many events throughout the year. These displays explain FOSA's mission, and archaeology in Connecticut. Some of these events were, the Connecticut Gravestone Symposium in April, the Durham Fair in September, the Hammonasset Festival also in September, the Archaeology Expo at the Pequot Museum in October, Archaeology Day at the Westport Library in November, and the Eastern States Archaeological Federation's Annual

Meeting in New London in November. Three members of FOSA's Board of Directors, Mandy Ranslow, Jeremy Pilver, and Zac Singer, gave presentations at that meeting.

There were many archaeological excavations throughout Connecticut last year that FOSA members participated in. These were under the direction of State Archaeologist Doctor Brian Jones, and his volunteer assistants, FOSA members Scott Brady and Lori Kessel. A few highlights of the field season included sediment screening for the Rocky Hill Historical Society in March, a dig at a homesite in Columbia in May, assisting at an excavation on the grounds of the Ellsworth House in Windsor for teachers in July, helping at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History's Field School at the Hollister Site in South Glastonbury in late July, the FOSA Field School in August also at the Hollister Site, and the Talcott House in Glastonbury for the Glastonbury Historical Society, and the local Boy and Girl Scouts. There were many other times during the year that FOSA members assisted Doctor Jones.

The Annual Archaeology Fair was held in October this year at the Pequot Museum in Mashantucket thanks to Mandy's hard work. FOSA co-sponsored this event at the Museum, and the fair included many different archaeology organizations and historical societies, and also included tours of the archaeology labs by Doctor Kevin McBride. The fair will probably be held there the next couple years.

There are two primary sources of information pertaining to FOSA, the Newsletter and the website. The Newsletter Committee, chaired by Jerry Tolchin, produces an issue in the spring and fall, full of information and articles of interest to members. The website, with Jim Hall as chairman, posts FOSA activities, both past and upcoming, the Newsletter, media reports on FOSA, and many other items of interest to members and non-members.

Throughout the year, FOSA members volunteered 1000s of hours of lab work, field work, media, and Outreach.

If any members are interested in helping in any of the areas I mentioned, whether its field work, Outreach, the Newsletter, or the website, please contact me, or any other Board member after the meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dreda Hendsey reported that as of December 31, 2017, FOSA had a balance of \$29,109.17 in the regular account, and \$7,584.63 in the C-14 account.

OSA Report: Dr. Brian Jones first thanked Don Rankin for his gift to the C-14 account. He explained that most of the money is allocated to analysis of the Hollister Site botanicals. He then thanked FOSA for all their help to the OSA. Brian then went over some of the year's highlights with a slideshow, beginning with the Little homestead in Columbia. Next was the educator's field school in Windsor at the Oliver Ellsworth house property. The adult field

school, sponsored by the Connecticut Museum of Natural History was again at the Hollister site in South Glastonbury. The emphasis was on finding evidence of post holes. Supports of a late 19th century tobacco barn were uncovered. The FOSA field school was also held there. This summer's dig will attempt to determine whether 3 large circles, shown on GPS, are Native American house floors. There is also evidence of another stone-lined cellar. There was a public dig at the Lee House in East Lyme where a jaw harp was found. A dig in was held in Hartford at Keney Park for kids which will continue this year. Bad news is that heavy rains in August damaged some materials at building #5 at UConn, good news is the new lab at UConn. A slide was shown listing all the digs scheduled for 2018. Dr. Jones announced that Jackie Veninger was hired by UConn for NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) matters. She assists him in projects and in the lab. He again thanked FOSA for all its support.

ASC Report: Lee West, filling in for ASC President Nick Bellantoni, noted the difference between FOSA and ASC. While FOSA focuses on the doing, ASC focuses on sharing knowledge. The spring meeting will be 9am, May 5th, at Newgate Prison. There will be speakers in the morning, and a tour in the afternoon. The older bulletins have been scanned and put online for everyone to enjoy. There are some issues for free in the lobby. He then thanked FOSA for the time to speak on behalf of ASC.

Officer/Director Elections: Nomination Committee Chair, Scott Brady, supervised the elections. The following Board members were reelected to an additional 2- year term as there were no nominations from the floor: Scott Brady, Mike Cahill, Lori Kessel, Jeremy Pilver, Mike Raber Mandy Ranslow, and Kathy Walburn. The slate of officers, approved by the Board, was also elected. Scott Brady as President, Jeremy Pilver as Vice President, Dreda Hendsey as Treasurer, Mike Cahill as Recording Secretary, and Glenda Rose as Corresponding Secretary.

Awards: Mike Raber presented FOSA's Certificate of Appreciation to Scott Brady, in recognition of his leadership skills, field and lab work, and serving as volunteer coordinator and member of FOSA's Board of Directors.

A special Certificate of Appreciation was presented by FOSA's first president, Gary Nolf, to his good friend Donald Rankin. Shannon Schiesser and Christine Koster of the Friends of Hammonasset, and friend John Picard of the Menunkatuck Audubon Society spoke of Don's contributions. The award was in recognition of Don's support of the Madison Library, the Meigs Point Nature Center, his Native American knowledge, his many lectures about Connecticut history, and his very generous support of FOSA.

Adjournment: Mandy passed the gavel to Scott. Scott thanked Don for all he does for FOSA. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Cahill, Recording Secretary.