

2022 FOSA Annual Membership Meeting

Zoom Meeting

March 9, 2022

There were approximately 45 members present at the 7 pm zoom meeting, including Board members, Sarah Sportman from OSA, and Lee West from ASC.

The speaker prior to the business meeting was Maisa Tisdale, President and CEO of the Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community. Her presentation was on the 19th century remaining two houses of the Little Liberia community of free people of color in Bridgeport CT. A ten-minute video was followed by her talk on the history of the site and surrounding area, its people, and their hardships and successes.

State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman spoke of the archaeology projects at the site over several years, which included ground penetrating radar, test pitting, and a sampling of artifacts recovered.

Call to Order: President Scott Brady called the business meeting to order at 8:45 pm.

Office of State Archaeology Report: There was much fieldwork, research projects, and assistance to many organizations with their archaeology during 2021. The iCRV radio show is going strong with many interesting shows and more to come. Field excavations were done at the Hollister site for a few weeks during the summer, and again in the fall, especially around the south cellar area. Several features were found including a pit, hearth, and cellar steps. More ground penetrating radar (GPR) work will be done at the site. Work at the site will continue. Sarah thanked all the volunteers who participated. The OSA worked with various organizations at the Peter's House in Hebron, owned by a free African American family around the early 1800s. The Two Wrasslin Cats site in East Haddam was found to be a Paleo-Indian site due to a fluted projectile point fragment recovered. More work will be done in the spring. Much lab work was completed with many volunteers. OSA is losing building #5 on Horsebarn Hill at UConn and will consolidate everything into building #1. The collections then can be better organized and inventoried. Sarah, along with Brianna Rae, will be presenting at the Society for American Archaeology in Chicago at the end of March. She will also be giving a presentation in April at the Avon Archaeology Webinar Series on the Farmington Mastodon. Sarah Sportman and Nick Bellantoni will be participating in Ridgefield's 245th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgefield celebration the end of April. There will be a lot of fieldwork this year, including ASC field schools at the Templeton and Hollister sites. Volunteers are welcome.

Treasurers Report: The 1st quarter of 2022 started with a balance of \$45,708.18, and as of March 8th had a balance of \$52,400.03. Most of the increase was due to new memberships and renewals. The FOSA testing account will be combined with the regular account to ease financial accountability. The \$5,213.43 in the testing account was transferred to the regular account and the account closed. Jim will keep a side record of funds earmarked for testing. The year 2021 started with \$45,152.96 in the regular account and ended the year with \$45,708.18. The Connecticut Humanities Grant for \$3,993.60 was returned to them. The \$3,450 for the Witness Stone Project is a state sponsored grant that FOSA is administering for the Peter's House site. The financials will be printed in the spring FOSA Newsletter.

Presidents Report: Scott pointed out that FOSA is 25 years old this year. Over the last 3 years there were 275 paid memberships. There are a few changes to the Board. Tom Burns is stepping down and Scott thanked him for his service. Mike Cahill is leaving his position as Recording Secretary after 4 terms but remaining on the Board. Scott will be stepping down as President. He thanked the Board and membership for all their help during his 2 terms. He also thanked the people who volunteered in the field and lab this past year. There will be much more fieldwork this next year as well as field schools. There will be some expenses for field equipment such as tents, screens and a new laser.

Nominations: Board members Dave Colberg, Sandy DiStefano, Glenda Rose, and Jim Trocchi all agreed to serve another 2-year term. Glenda Rose will serve as President, Vice-President slot is open, Jim Trocchi will remain as Treasurer, Scott Brady will be Recording Secretary, and Sandy DiStefano will remain as Corresponding Secretary. Mike Cahill made a motion to approve the slate. Tom Burns 2nd. Motion carried. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Recording Secretary's Report: (Not read at meeting) The year began with FOSA's Annual Meeting via Zoom on March 10, 2021. The following Board members have agreed to serve a 2-year term: Thomas Burns, David Colberg, Sandy DiStefano, Dreda Hendsey, Richard Hughes, Glenda Rose, and Jim Trocchi. Lucinda McWeeney was nominated from the floor for a position on the Board. All were elected by members votes via email. The officers this past year were Scott Brady as President, Glenda Rose as Vice-President, Jim Trocchi as Treasurer, Mike Cahill as Recording Secretary, and Sandy DiStefano as Corresponding Secretary.

In contrast to last year, there were many excavations under the direction of State Archaeologist Doctor Sarah Sportman. Some of these included Two Wrasslin Cats Coffee House and Café in East Haddam, the Peter's Homestead in Hebron, the Freeman Houses in Bridgeport, the Hollister site in South Glastonbury, the Lee House in East Lyme, and Millrace Park in Ivoryton.

Although there were no applicants for the Cooke Scholarship this year, FOSA donated \$2,000 to internet Connecticut River Valley (iCRV) to continue their monthly programs on archaeology which are hosted by Sarah Sportman and Scott Brady. These programs can also be located through the FOSA website. FOSA also funded UConn graduate student Brianna Rae's time at

the lab during the summer months, where she worked on cataloging, analyzing, inventorying, and repackaging artifacts.

FOSA co-sponsored, along with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, a series of lectures during the spring and fall with presentations about Connecticut archaeology and other New England states which were very well attended.

Although the Outreach committee was inactive this year, since the events they normally attend were cancelled due to Covid, they are already scheduled to represent FOSA at the Hammonasset Festival in October. There are two committees which are always active. The Newsletter committee, chaired by Jerry Tolchin, produces an issue in the spring and fall, full of articles and information to members. The Website committee is chaired by Jim Hall. The Website contains items of interest to members and non-members, such as FOSA's purpose, activities, copies of the Newsletter, and media reports. Many FOSA members assisted in the archaeology lab at UConn this year, cleaning and cataloging artifacts recovered during the past year's excavations.

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

Motion to Adjourn: Glenda made a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Cahill, Recording Secretary.