

## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting – February 4, 2013

John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot ME

Roseanne Adams called the meeting to order. There were 34 people in attendance.

**Secretary's Report** – Dorothy Hansen read the report prepared by secretary, Helen Goransson. After a minor correction the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Richard Bogh read the Treasurer's report as of February 4, 2013 and the report is attached. He said the balance as of 1/7/13 was \$3,659.49. With debits of \$128.69 and credits of \$230.00 which included \$210 from dues and \$20 for the sale of a book giving the current balance of \$3,760.80 in the checking account. The balance in the savings account as of 12/31/12 was \$20,908.09. Interest of \$1.78 earned brought the balance in the savings account to \$20,909.87 as of 2/4/13. The report was approved as read.

**Membership** – Sylvia Moynahan reported that she has a total of 48 paid members for 2013. Memberships run Jan – Dec. She is always willing to accept membership renewals. Annual dues are \$5 per person or lifetime memberships are \$50 per individual or \$75 for a family.

**Fund Raising** – Cindy Lentz gave the fundraising report. She began by thanking those who brought groceries being collected for the 68 Hours of Hunger Program. She said that they are again planning the Appraisal Fundraising event for March 9<sup>th</sup> to be held at the Methodist Church from 11-4. The appraisal for one item is \$10, two for \$15 and three for \$20. Members will be asked to provide baked goods. We will again be having our annual yard sale on May the 4<sup>th</sup> with May 11<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. Members will be asked to bring baked goods to sell for that day. Please be saving your items which can be brought in early or can be arranged for pick up. Cindy also reminded members of the upcoming fundraiser "Help Feed Your Neighbors" sponsored by the rotary on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Regatta Room. Helen Goransson is part of the rotary and Cindy is encouraging us to show support to Helen by taking some tables. The tickets are \$25. There are 8 people to a table. There are printed sheets available tonight with more information. Cindy thanked Polly and Jack McDonough for recently redoing the historic sign at the Town Hall and Denny Lentz for rehangng it.

Many committee chairs had nothing new to report.

### **Acknowledgements –**

Denny told us that the ladies from the Historical Society recently prepared a meal for a Grange event. The Historical Society ladies 'negotiated' with the Grange ladies to let us use the Grange hall rent free for our Historical Society meetings for the next three months. That will save us \$150, \$50 for each month March through May.

Polly reported that Jeanette Paul is feeling much better and may be able to attend our next meeting.

Polly McDonough also announced that she and Jack as well as Richard and Carolyn Bogh will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries.

Rosanne thanked Toni and Keith Searles for the night's refreshments.

**Evening's Program** - Rosanne then adjourned the meeting and asked program chairman, Carol Zamarchi to introduce the evening's speaker, Gary Hildreth. She said that Gary lives in Eliot, is retired from the shipyards, is married and has 2 sons. He was an instructor for submarine school in CT, and currently works for the Public Affairs Office at the Navy Yards. He will be talking on the "Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in War & Peace". Gary was awarded numerous medals while serving his country.

Gary said he grew up in Florida. When speaking with a Navy Recruiter an interest in submarines was sparked. When the Navy Submarine School graduates awaited their orders, they were hoping for exciting places. Gary was disappointed that he would be going to an unknown location, Portsmouth, NH. While raising his family they were stationed in various locations including Hawaii and Japan. He gave much credit to the spouses whose husbands were deployed for 6 months at a time and with no communication to or from submarines. After 21 years he was thinking of retirement and realized he'd like to go back to New England. He was assigned back to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyards. He lectures through-out New England using a slide presentation. He looks forward to the annual Kittery 3<sup>rd</sup> graders visit. Though the students have studied John Paul Jones who lived in Portsmouth, Gary makes it clear that he never worked at the shipyard. The shipyard is the longest operating naval shipyard in the country. The 228 acres where it was built was purchased for \$5,800. It is confusing because the island where the shipyard is located has a Portsmouth, New Hampshire post office, but is actually located in Maine. The oldest structure in the yards is a house built for the First Commander, Isaac Hall and his family. Gary also gave a history of the prison and was always willing to answer questions.

Gary said that the Navy was established to protect trade throughout the world from pirates who stole goods and enslaved our sailors. He went on to give us history from the early days with diesel and then nuclear powered submarines and how differently they operate. He told us of the exciting rescue of 33 men from a sunken submarine in 1939. He told fascinating stories about ships like the USS Washington launched in 1814 and submarines like the USS Squalus, Thresher and the Albacore.

He told how the Russo/Japanese Treaty came to be held at the Portsmouth Navy Shipyard. He related how many women came to work in the yards during World War II. Half of all submarines made in World War II were built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyards. They built 32 submarines in 1944. They could build one in 173 days.

Today the shipyard does not build but overhauls, repairs and modernizes ships. They pride themselves in finishing their quality work early and under budget. He then took questions.

Dorothy Hansen, substituting for Helen Goransson