

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for February 7, 2011
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

President Denny Lentz called the meeting to order with 25 in attendance. Denny told members that Jeanette Paul is in the hospital after an operation. There is a card for members to sign at the back of the room. Also, there is another to be signed for Cyndi Sullivan who recently had a surgery. Carol Zamarchi said that both ladies are doing well.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the January meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read the Treasurer's report, which showed debits for some supplies, electric bill and Grange Hall rental. There were credits for dues, product sales and a donation from Helen Goransson for her book sales giving a balance of \$3,428.87 in the checking account. An interest posting of \$2.47 gave a balance of \$14,558.64 in the savings account. Julie's report was approved.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership Janet Saurman said that she continues to collect dues. She said that Cyndi Sullivan sent mailings to past members that have not attended recently. Denny asked that members get their dues in. He said that we are cheap, and "funny". Denny then read a card with a donation to the Historical Society from Florence Moulton's nephew. Denny commented on Florence being a loyal member and wonderful lady. Janet said she would send him a thank you.

Program Carol Zamarchi said that she has a full program set up for this year. She appreciates suggestions that people have given her. When she made the contacts no one said "no", so she was able to complete the programs.

Collections Julie reported that Carol had made contact with a South Berwick Historical Society member, Wendy Persick, who invited Julie, Carol and Denny to come see how they go about cataloguing their collection. Julie said that we use the same computer program that South Berwick uses. We will now be able to access their program and Wendy was able to see what we have in our collection. Cindy then reported that she; Carol and Dorothy worked on the collection that day. Cindy said that the goal was that folders be gone through pulling out duplicate copies and make sure that the retained items were all in acid free folders. Cindy said they would continue to do that, getting "lean and mean". She also talked about the need for the

committee to go through the clothing in the collection as there is much duplication there as well. Denny then mentioned that he, Janet and Zip were able to go to an office in the Pease Trade Port that is giving up some really nice office equipment including file cabinets. They are willing to donate them to us. We just need to tag them and then pick them up. Denny said that some of our recent plans have been stopped by all the snow.

Building Paul Johnson said that his committee has been hibernating as well. If anyone sees anything that needs to be done let him know and they will get together to do it. One job may be to do some refinishing on the floors in the Grange Hall.

Fund Raising Carol Zamarchi said that her committee is planning another Ball to be held on Eliot Festival Day, which is Saturday, September 24th. The Regatta Room has offered their facility free of charge again and Carol was able to retain the same DJ. The Fund Raising Committee will be meeting Feb. 15th at 10:00 AM at Helen Sullivan's home.

Grants Helen Goransson is waiting for 2 different grants, one is from the Maine Historical Society. Helen said there are funds out there. They took her contact information and said they would call her back. Bobbie Beavers told her of a community-building grant, funds are used for the benefit of the community. In our community there is a need for a facility that would give us storage for our historical collection. Here we would have a place where people can bring their historical donations. It would help us acquire and preserve these items for Eliot. Helen would like to write a proposal by February 15th. She would like an authorization from the Historical Society of what we would like her to request in the proposal. She would probably say that we are in the midst of trying to find a more permanent home for our collection in Eliot. In the mean time we really need to take care of what we have. Denny suggested that we could use display cases similar to those used in South Berwick. They could be used wherever we locate.

Building Planning Zip Zamarchi said his planned meetings were snowed out. He said they had talked about a facility for \$20,000, which would not include land, water, sewer and electric. Denny said he and Jack McDonough had gone to Alfred to look at the deed for the Grange to find out more about who really owns the Grange Hall building. The building sits on an acre and a third and was purchased by the Eliot Grange Association from George Kennard for \$400 in 1908. The building was built in 1910. It is still titled to the Grange Association here in Eliot. The question was if we ever had enough money who would we deal with to purchase the Grange Hall. It was decided that the next committee meeting would be Thursday, February 10th at 7PM.

Old Business

Denny said that he and Paul Rousseau had not yet met about the Society's plan to provide a Certificate of Restoration for owners who restore their home to the original condition. Carol said that she had found some examples of certificates that were presented in 1996 and 1997. She gave them to Denny. Rosanne said that when she was president they had presented these certificates. Denny asked if she would like to be on that committee.

There was another discussion about a dollar amount for quick purchases of Eliot related artifacts for the Historical Society. Julie said that usually the trustees are the go to people in other organizations. The trustees should be the committee for setting criteria on how we acquire historical items and the dollar amount to make purchases with out approval and from whom. A consensus agreed that the trustees would put together the criteria for future purchases.

Denny then said thank you to Eric Christian, Roseanne Junkins and Lee Downer for their donation of the #8 schoolhouse documents. There will be no need to reimburse the donors for their gift.

New Business

Denny then ask Eric if there is a way to put a "wish list" for the Eliot Historical Society on their website. Eric said that it should be possible to come up with a form that people who are so inclined could use to leave a bequeath to our society.

Cindy Lentz reminded people of our yard sale to be held in May. Please save your items. Besides having a good time we made a lot of money, which paid for the insurance on the school and toward rental of the Grange Hall. Items can be picked up and stored in the school.

Denny said that rent to Tobey Sheet Metal for our collection storage would be due soon. We first have to be sure they will let us stay. The cost is \$100 a month, but serves our needs very well.

Acknowledgements

Denny thanked Carol for all her work on the new programs for 2011.

He thanked Cindy Lentz and Carol Zamarchi for the night's refreshments.

Denny also thanked Eric Christian for the new addition to the website entitled “Memories”. He said it is very interesting and absolutely beautiful.

Denny then closed the business meeting and turned it over to the Program Chairman, Carol. The evening’s theme was “Love is in the Air. Carol first talked about the origins of Valentines Day. Legend says that in 496AD Pope Galasius set aside February 14th to honor Saint Valentines. Over time February 14th became the day set aside to send love messages and celebrations of Saint Valentine, Patron Saint for lovers. Commercial Valentines started back in the 1800’s. Carol shared some very interesting traditions from different places. Carol said that Valentines Day was a special day in her family as her father was born on Valentines Day and his middle name was Valentine. Carol asked members to take turns in sharing the wedding pictures they brought. It was noticed that the style of many of the wedding gowns could still be worn today. Carol also had a display of some antique Valentines.

Cindy Lentz and Carol Zamarchi then served the refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary