

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for Mar. 1, 2010  
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny Lentz called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone including guests. There were 44 people in attendance. Denny reminded everyone that it was the town of Eliot's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. He talked about the commemoration of Eliot's birthday held that morning at the town hall & the school.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the February meeting and they were approved after a small addition.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson gave the treasurer's report showing debits for CMP & Grange rental and credits for dues giving \$415.21 in the checking account. An interest deposit brought the savings account to \$12,466.38. Her report was approved.

## Committee Chair Reports

Correspondence Peggy Elliot was not in attendance but will send a card to the Goranssons because Helen just lost her mother.

Membership Janet Saurman said she continues to take in new members. She also said we have received a thank you note from the Principal of the elementary school thanking us for our donation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in their effort to create a special song for the Bi-Centennial.

Collections Julie said she has nothing new on collections, but reminded everyone to save items for the upcoming yard sale at the #8 schoolhouse to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Building Paul Johnson said they are working on the historical location signs for the Bi-Centennial. He agreed that it would be good to work on the floors at the Grange Hall soon.

Fund Raising Carol Zamarchi said that fund raising plans are going very well at this time.

Education Jeanette reported that she has completed most of her poem about Eliot for the Bi-Centennial. When she was asked, Jeanette read her poem. It was very well received by the society members.

## Old Business

### Bi-Centennial Planning

1. Bi-Centennial Ball Carol said that their plans are going well.
2. Parade/float Eric said he is still trying to secure a hay wagon.
3. Signs Paul said that the Bi-Centennial signs are constructed. He will be gathering a team to do the sign painting. Polly McDonough has offered to add her artwork to the new Town Hall sign.
4. Eliot History Rosanne Junkins said that Paul Russo is working on historical talks and displays. She said that they would invite other Eliot families to add their historical displays. They could be set up in the Grange Hall. Margaret Morse has offered to sit with the displays at the Grange. If anyone wishes to open their historical homes in Eliot to be on tour, please let us know.
5. #8 Schoolhouse Julie Johnson said she would be putting together items from our collection for display in the schoolhouse.

## New Business

There was a discussion on how to handle future donations from the Historical Society. It was suggested that we have a committee willing to make recommendations on what we are able to give as donations in the future. Jack McDonough, Paul Johnson & Julie as Treasurer were willing to serve as advisors.

Paul Johnson suggested that perhaps we might want to make a donation in memory of June Goodwin and Helen Goransson's mother.

## Announcements

Denny thanked Bobbi Atkinson and Bobbi Beavers for the night's refreshments.

Denny also asked that people be sure to arrive by 7:00 for next month's meeting. The local historian, Mr. Hindle would like to do his program first. The business meeting would then follow.

Denny then adjourned the meeting and introduced our program chairman, Carol Zamarchi.

Carol then introduced Donald G. Curry to talk about "When trolleys were the way to go". Donald became interested in the Seashore Trolley Museum since his college days in 1953. He was their first paid employee and remained as a volunteer for much of the 57 years. He acquired his degree in music education. He was a band director

and instructor of music before he retired in 1989. He started researching the art of trolley restoration. He traveled all over the U.S., Canada & England visiting operating Trolley companies. Donald was Director of the Seashore Trolley Museum from 1989 through 1997. He gave us an extensive slide show presentation consisting of maps and old photos of trolleys, stations, and bridges in Eliot, Portsmouth, Kittery, York and South Berwick. Several of our members were happy to help him identify some of the Eliot homes and locations that still exist today. He talked about the PDY (Portsmouth, Kittery & Dover) and other local lines. He said the opening day for the PDY was in 1897. The height of trolley activity was 1900-1930. He entertained us with several humorous poems from 1898 and 1918 talking about riding and working on the PDY, sometimes referred to as "Pull, Drag & Yank". There were 41 miles on the PDY, which he said, "were historic, beautiful and interesting". He said that the last trolley rumbled by in our area on March 23, 1923. Donald was very happy to answer any questions.

The refreshments were then served by Bobbi Atkinson and Bobbi Beavers

Respectfully submitted  
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary