

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting – March 4, 2013

John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Vice president Paul Johnson, replacing president Rosanne Adams that evening, called the meeting to order at 7 a.m. There were approximately 30 people present at the meeting.

Secretary's Report – Helen Goransson read the secretary's report of February 4th which was wonderfully written by Dorothy Hansen in the absence of Helen Goransson. The report was approved as read and greatly appreciated by all who heard it.

Treasurer's Report – Richard Bogh read the Treasurer's Report as of February 4, 2013. The report is attached. The balance as of 1/7/13 in checking was \$3,659.49. With debits of \$46.27 and credits of \$150.00 from dues, book sales, and a donation in memory of Fran Richardson, the balance as of 2/4/13 was \$3,864.53. The balance in the savings account as of 1/7/13 was \$20,908.09. Interest of \$1.60 was earned and the balance as of 2/28/13 in savings was \$20,911.47. We are keeping track of the donations in the Richardson fund for a future project in her honor.

There was nothing new to report from the Directors, Correspondence, Membership, Programs, Publicity, Grants and Collections committees.

Building Committee – Zip Zamarchi reported that there will be a meeting on March 26th and not the 25th as originally proposed.

Fund Raising – Cindy Lentz again expressed appreciation for all those who have donated food and time to End 68 Hours of Hunger. She mentioned that there is a basket in the Town Hall to drop off food items at any time. As for the upcoming Appraisal Day on March 9th, she noted that we will need helpers for that event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. People who have signed up to provide baked goods and other foods should plan to bring them to the Eliot Methodist Church by 10:00 a.m. She also reminded us that the yard sale is the first Saturday in May, with a rain date of the following Saturday. Carolyn Bogh added that she has provided a delivery of Lindt chocolates as a donation to the Help Feed Your Neighbors fundraiser on behalf of the Eliot Historical Society.

Old Business – Denny Lentz reported that a while ago a car drove through the Carter Cemetery and recently the perpetrator sent in \$1100 for repairs. However, the insurance quote was for \$10,000 to make the necessary repairs. Denny will see what they expected to repair for only \$1100.

New Business - Paul Johnson introduced Julie Johnson to provide the auditor report for fiscal year 2012. She reported that there were no irregularities found in the financial records of the Eliot Historical Society.

Carol Zamarchi reported that the Marshwood High School community service day will be April 3rd from 9-11 a.m. Usually 10-20 students work on the cemeteries on this day. Rosanne Adams has helped with this in the past. She asked for suggestions for sites and people mentioned Ambush Rock and the Shapleigh cemetery, among others. Carol noted that some students will also be going to South Berwick for this project.

Paul Johnson received an email from Bud Warren who approached the Eliot Historical Society sometime last year when he needed information for his research. Bud will be giving a presentation for the next Kittery Historical Society meeting about the Tidal Mills of Kittery, York and Eliot, in case anyone is interested in attending.

Paul Johnson's company offers a bus trip each year to Foxwoods and they have some room for folks from the Eliot Historical Society who might be interested in joining them on March 22nd. The bus leaves at 7 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m. The cost is only \$30 and attendees also receive lots of coupons for Foxwoods. It is always a good time and Paul wanted to extend that invitation to the members.

Special Honoree – Paul Johnson then invited Polly McDonough to make a special presentation. Polly explained that in honor of Jeanette Paul, the Society compiled a booklet in appreciation for all her work over the years on collections (including washing, mending, ironing, sorting and packing), her gift of poetry (including her Bicentennial poem and highly publicized one about the Memorial Bridge), and her devotion to the Historical Society. She described Jeanette as the living witness of what Eliot was like, which has been a blessing to all of us. The poem "I'm Thinking of Someone", which was written by one of our members, none other than Denny Lentz, was read, and then we all sang a belated Happy Birthday song since she recently turned 90 years old.

Acknowledgements – Thanks to Cyndi Sullivan and Sylvia Moynahan for the night's refreshments.

Evening's Program – The business meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. and Carol Zamarchi, before introducing the evening's speaker, announced that next month John Paul Oswald will be talking to us about his experience with UFO's. Anyone interested in reading a bit about it beforehand was welcome to take one of the booklets he left for us in preparation for the next meeting.

She then introduced the evening's presenter, Bob Gonnella. Bob was recommended to us by Fran Richardson, and, although he is ideal for the holiday season, he was not available for us until now. She explained that Bob collects animated holiday toys and he comes to us from Kittery.

Bob Gonnella, all dressed up in Santa Claus - like garb minus the beard, explained that he enjoys sharing his collection of toys with the young and the young at heart. Bob has 40-45 in his collection and is always on the hunt for more. If you missed this meeting you missed the following animated objects: Santa in a bathtub singing "Splish Splash", a dog in galoshes and raincoat "Singin' in the Rain", a reindeer "Getting Nothin' for Christmas", a piano-playing Santa, lots of singing reindeer and moose, a dancing snowman accompanied by "Winter Wonderland", mooing cows and reindeer rocking in their chairs, a dog barking "Jingle Bells", a saxophone-playing golden gyrating Santa Claus, a duck quacking a carol, and Santa and Mrs. Claus dancing to a holiday tune, among many others. In fact, we saw versions of Santa wiggling, shaking his bootie, tap dancing, drumming, riding a tricycle, jumping, talking and even receiving emails, joined by his multiple entertaining stuffed friends, and all with some sort of musical accompaniment.

The animated fun ended around 8:10 p.m. and the real people then enjoyed the refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Goransson