

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for April 4, 2011  
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

President Denny Lentz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 30 in attendance. He was especially happy to see several of our members back after being ill. He also announced that Carol Zamarchi had been quite ill and after hospitalization is back home.

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

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read the Treasurer's report showing debits for the electric bill, Grange rental, supplies, stamps and a deposit to the Regatta room for the 2011 ball. There were credits for dues and a donation from Helen Goransson for her book sales giving a balance of \$2,458.86 in the checking account. A credit of interest gave a balance in the savings account of \$14,563.34.

## Committee Chair Reports

Membership Janet Saurman had nothing new to report but will be completing a new membership list.

Collections Julie Johnson said that she and her committee have worked on the collection a few times. She said that we have complete sets of town reports. Any extra reports are at the back of the room if any one would like to take some. Our sets go back to the 1880s. Jack Murphy said that Joe Frost had some dating back to the 1700s.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh said that the Eliot 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes would be visiting our #8 Schoolhouse on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Paul Johnson, Ray Faulkner and Jeanette Paul will again participate in the program. They will again be acting out roles and others are welcome to come to help. Carolyn said that she would like to have the school open other times. She feels it doesn't get used enough. Denny suggested that we could open it up for visitors during the Eliot Festival Days.

Education Jeanette Paul said she would again be using the same script as the teacher when the students visit.

Grants Denny said we did get acknowledgment from the Maine Community foundation. We will be in the running for a grant.

Building Planning Committee In Zip's absence Denny read the minutes for the previous meeting held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were Zip Zamarchi, Paul Johnson, Jack McDonough, Denny Lentz, Carol Selsberg and Janet Saurman. Zip reported that the Tobey Sheet Metal rental space is secure for the months ahead. The group continued brainstorming for a permanent solution to our storage dilemma. Carol Selsberg shared a list of possible ideas for finding properties in the community. Zip shared his preliminary findings regarding a property on Levesque Drive. Other properties in town discussed were the now closed Katrina's Restaurant and the Davis Oil property. After discussing purchasing a portable classroom it was agreed this would be an expensive option, probably \$50,000 to purchase and make habitable. After discussion of Community outreach Denny is writing to the Eliot Grange with the hope of engaging them in a discussion about how EHS might more permanently use (perhaps even purchase) their space. He is also writing to Steve Beckert requesting that EHS's needs be considered as his committee begins planning for a possible new space at Eliot Town Hall. Denny said he has written the letters. Carolyn then suggested that Denny might attend the town meeting letting them know that we are looking for a facility. There was a discussion about the Community Center Building and if it has mold, could it be cleaned out if the town decides to replace it. It is in a good location in the center of town.

## Old Business

Denny said he wants to do more with the Certificate of Restoration. He said he has worked on it, but it still needs more work. He'd like to finish it before our next meeting.

Denny said another item still pending is the process and the dollar amount for quick purchases for Eliot artifacts. The trustees discussed, but haven't really nailed the process.

It was mentioned that we should have a bake sale with our coming yard sale. It was very profitable the last time. The yard sale and bake sale is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>.

There was a discussion about the "Then and Now" photo contest for the Maine Municipal Association. The deadline for entries is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Since the town asked us, we would like to go forward with it. Eric Christian agreed to help with the project.

## New Business

Denny said he sent an email out to members before the meeting with information to discuss at the meeting. If someone didn't get it, please check with Denny or Janet. In it he reminded people about collecting their yard sale items and that those items can be brought to the #8 schoolhouse. Denny and Julie have a key so people could contact them to leave their items there. If you need help you can call Denny and he will pick up your items. It was discussed that clothing does not sell well. We probably would not want large furniture items and large electronic items (such as TV's) as we have nowhere to go with those that do not sell. Judith will ask her church again if they would take from us the things that don't sell as they did last year.

Denny said that he received information about an interesting lecture talking about old maps of Maine on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Portland campus of Southern Maine University put on by the Maine Historical Society and the Osher Map Library. If anyone is interested, he put a brochure on the back table.

There are three conferences going on at Star Island, the Isles of Shoals this summer on "Grand Hotels", "Travel Writing/Journaling", and "Photography". There is a brochure on the back table for anyone interested.

Denny thanked Jan Cerbona, Cindy and Helen Sullivan and Polly and Jack McDonough for the night's refreshments.

Julie stood up to remind people to get their ballots into Kennebunk Savings Bank for their Community Investment. She explained that by listing the Eliot Historical Society the Society receives cash for each ballot.

Ray Faulkner said that PBS' History Detectives filmed at Fort McClary on Sun, the third of April. Ray was one of 18 re-enactors. The segment has to do with an early telescope/spyglass that may have belonged to Sir William Pepperell. The fort was a stand-in for Fortress Louisbourg and the re-enactors portrayed soldiers, sailors and artillerymen of the Pepperell led siege and capture in 1745 during King George's War (War of Austrian Succession). The episode is to be broadcast sometime during the summer.

Denny then closed the business meeting and called on Cindy Lentz to introduce the speaker. Cindy asked Mary Ellis to come forward. Cindy said that Mary is an accomplished quilter and that she will be talking about a quilt, which is owned by our Historical Society. Mary said that Nellie Fernald had the quilt in her possession. Nellie gave it to her granddaughter who gave the quilt to the Historical Society. Mary did not know how Nellie came to have it. She said that this quilt is a great example of a crazy quilt, which was a pattern sometimes used because they didn't have much fabric. Mary read the names that were written on the back of the quilt and told what she knew about some of the ladies. She said some were nick names making

it hard to determine the real name. Most of the ladies lived in South Eliot and were members of the south Eliot Methodist Church. Most quilts would have a date or at least a year, but Mary did very close observation and there was no date on it. This quilt could have been made for a minister. A minister's wife was a signer and she was at the church between 1924-1927. Perhaps it was a going away present. From her quilting knowledge Mary was able to point out some of the unique patches and unique fabrics and some with embroidery. She said that some of the patches have a story behind them. Mary went from patch to patch showing us the meaning she found in them. She said the ladies of the day probably got their fabrics from the local mills and people would swap. Mary was open to conversation with the members and happy to answer any questions.

The refreshments were then served by Jan Cerabona, Cindy & Helen Sullivan and Polly and Jack McDonough.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary