

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for April 5, 2010
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny Lentz called the meeting to order and said he would postpone the regular business meeting so we could get to the evening's program. He had a few announcements and some brief discussions. There were 29 people in attendance including some guests.

Denny was happy to announce that the Eliot Bi-Centennial Committee has adopted Jeanette Paul's poem as the official Bi-Centennial poem. It was suggested that a \$2 donation be made to secure an autographed copy of Jeanette's poem. Proceeds would be used for the betterment of the #8 schoolhouse in Jeanette's honor. We agreed by consensus.

Denny said next month we would have some in depth reporting from our Bi-Centennial committees.

Denny thanked Carolyn Bogh for the article she placed in the Eliot Community Service Department's recent mailing in regards to Eliot Historical Society's plans for the Bi-Centennial. Carolyn is preparing an article for the Sentinel. Denny asked Carolyn if she could include Jeanette's poem in her next article. Denny said we would start selling tickets for the ball this month. He also said that the Bi-Centennial Ball posters are beautiful. Thanks to Polly McDonough for her work on them.

Denny asked the society members if they are willing to again donate to the Great Works Regional Land Trust. By consensus it was agreed to donate \$100.

Denny said he had received a check for a lifetime membership to Eliot Historical Society from an out of state person who appreciated help in his search for information on his family history.

Carol Zamarchi said that a group of Marshwood High School students would again be doing major cleaning in Eliot cemeteries. Carol said that if we knew of any cemeteries in need of cleaning, please let her know. They may do as many as 6 cemeteries. They do a great job.

Julie Johnson reminded everyone of the Kennebunk Savings Bank's community reinvestment ballots. She told us how to mark the ballots so that the Historical Society would receive the funds. They need to be turned in by April 30th.

Denny said that he was looking to renew insurance on the #8 Schoolhouse. He was surprised to learn the cost would be over \$1,000. He & Paul Johnson are looking to see if they can do any better.

Denny then turned the meeting over to our Program Chairman, Carol Zamarchi.

Carol introduced Tom Hindle, a local historian and photographer to talk about “Images Past and Present”. He is very interested in the evolution of photography. He said that photography really began in 1840 in the U.S. with Samuel Morse and his Daguerreotypes. Tom had set up a huge display of all forms of photographs and camera equipment including a stereopticon. Tom talked about how people today take for granted the family photos sitting around in their homes. A hundred and fifty years ago the ordinary person had no way to preserve a likeness of their loved ones. Itinerant painters would travel around and would paint your family if you could afford it. Painters might stay in hotels and do small paintings of scenery, the forerunners to picture postcards. Tom passed around examples of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, ferroypes, mounted images, glass negatives, cabinet cards and more. Tom talked about Matthew Brady who had studios in NY and Washington, DC. As photography evolved the methods such as the tintype became more available to the common person. Brady and others used photography more during the civil war. Brady did the first picture of Abraham Lincoln, which was later used on US currency.

Tom showed how some photographs had suffered from improper storage. He talked about how photos should be stored. He said that Fuji Archival Paper holds up well. Tom orders various photography items for storage from the Archival Company in MA. Tom looked at pictures brought in by members. He was very willing to answer numerous questions from the group. Members then came forward to talk with Tom and look at his items.

Respectfully submitted
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary