

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for April 6, 2009
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot ME

Denny called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 26 in attendance.

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

Treasurer's Report In Julie Johnson's absence Paul Johnson read her report. The checking account showed several debits including ME filing, Grange rental and work supplies for the Grange Hall. The credits included reimbursement for Grange supplies and members annual dues giving a balance of \$3,431.04 in the checking account. The #8 schoolhouse fund had a debit for the electrical bill leaving a balance of \$906.19. Interest of 11.77 brought the savings account to a balance of \$7,166.02

Committee Chair Reports:

Collections Paul gave Julie's collections report saying that Kennebunk Savings Bank had donated theatre ropes for our future exhibits. We will be purchasing mannequins for our clothing display. They also donated a plate and mug with the Nightingale on them.

Membership Judith Hilt reported that we now have 11 family lifetime memberships and 17 regular memberships. Annual dues are now overdue.

Building Paul said that Denny and Zip had been working on painting and more patching at the Grange Hall. Denny said that Paul had wired and installed several new electrical outlets. Judith said that the ladies of the Grange are very appreciative of all the work done by our 'boys'.

Correspondence Denny said that Peggy Elliot had sent a thank you to Robert Perham who did the program for our March meeting.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh reported that plans are being made for second grade classes to visit our #8 School House on May 20th. She also said that the children really enjoyed Ray Faulkner's flag presentation last year. She would like him to do it again or perhaps the teachers would like him to come do it in their classrooms. Carolyn said that Paul would again videotape the student visitations.

Fund Raising Carol Zamarchi said that her committee has talked with the owners of the Regatta Room who will let us use their room for free to kick-off the Bi-Centennial. The plan would be to have an event that would replicate the annual Lighting Up Ball in S. Berwick. People would be encouraged to come in costume or dress in their finery. The event would take place on August 7, 2010 and tickets would sell for \$20 with a cash bar. Carol said they were not trying to make it a fundraiser. We would need to provide the linens and the music. Carol said we should give them a \$1000 deposit to hold the room. A motion was made, seconded and passed that we pay the \$1000 to hold the Regatta Room for August 7, 2010. The next fundraising committee will be at Cindy Lentz's on April 28th at 1 PM if anyone is interested in attending.

Bi-Centennial Zip Zamarchi said that the work will get much more intense as the Bi-Centennial gets closer. Denny said he is talking with Jack McDonough about trying to get the Gundalow docked near the Boat Basin during the festivities.

Old Business

Denny said that members could find a copy of the new bi-laws on the table at the back of the room.

New Business

Denny passed around the sign-up sheet for refreshments for the rest of the meetings in 2009.

Carol said that we are happy to hear that the Goranssons are again planning to donate tickets for the Seacoast Repertory theatre for opening night in December.

Denny then told the members about the "Gift of Education" program. It gives Marshwood High school students a chance to compete with students nationwide about the US Constitution in Washington DC where they can also tour. Denny suggested that we donate \$100 to this worthy cause and the members approved the donation.

Zip said that there will be 2 high school groups working at 2 cemeteries in Eliot April 15th from 8:30-10:30 cleaning brush, etc.

Eric Christian said that with help from Roseanne Junkins he feels that he has located the Garrison foundation under lilacs at the Boat Basin. Eric talked with professionals from Salem State and they are interested in checking it out. In lieu of an actual dig they would use penetrating radar. They would only ask us to pay \$300-350 for their

transportation and some batteries and would give us their report by the end of the summer. After a discussion it was decided to pay the money to go forward with Eric's suggestion.

Announcements

Denny thanked Jeanette Paul and Joan McKitrick for providing the night's refreshments.

Paul Johnson said that he would like to thank Paul Russo for donating a painting of the All Scout Circus to the Historical Society. Paul Russo told a little about the painting, which had hung on his parents' wall.

The business was then adjourned. Denny turned the meeting over to Carol.

Carol then introduced Julia Roberts, President of the Rollinsford Culture & History Association to talk about "The Old House that Came Home". Julia started by giving some history of the Col. Paul Wentworth house aided by a fellow board member, Ed Charpentier. Paul Wentworth built the home as a gift to his new wife Abra Brown in 1701. Probably because he owned a sawmill he used beautiful paneling throughout the house. In 1936 a Wentworth descendant, Mr. Blodgett moved this family home to Dover, MA. All the boards were carefully numbered during the dismantling and then reconstructed in Dover, MA. When Mr. Blodgett died his family realized that the home belonged in Rollinsford. There were people in Rollinsford who wanted the home but it would cost a lot of money to move it back. It would be necessary to form a non-profit organization to raise the funds. This historical home had been very well documented with pictures available even in the Library of Congress. The Culture & History Association worked hard to raise the necessary money, hired a special architect and they moved the house back to the original property within 100 feet of its original location. Julia proudly told us the story and gave us a slide show tour of the interior, now open to the public. Julia willingly answered many questions from our interested members.

Refreshments were then served by Jeanette Paul.

Respectfully submitted
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary