

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for May 2, 2011
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

President, Denny Lentz called the meeting to order and welcomed every one especially guests. There were over 40 in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the April meeting. There was a correction and the minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read the Treasurer's report showing debits for the Grange rental, Tobey Sheet Metal rental, PO Box rental, annual insurance, electric bill, supplies and stamps. Credits of dues and sales gave a balance of \$1,204.42 in the checking account. An interest credit gave a balance of \$14,565.65 in the savings account.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership Janet Saurman said she is still taking in new memberships. Denny said that Janet has volunteered to co-ordinate the ticket activities for the ball. He said that they have printed out 150 tickets for the upcoming ball and asked people to take some to start selling them.

Collections Julie said that she has put a list on each chair showing which town reports we can still use. If there are any questions call Julie at the number on the sheet.

Building Paul said he was planning a workday at 8AM on May 21st to do some sprucing up of the schoolhouse before the students' visitation.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh said that the following Friday there would be a panel of 3 people that will go to the school to talk to the students telling them their experiences when attending a one-room schoolhouse. Carolyn said she would like to give each visiting student a cookie. She cleared with the teachers that there are no allergies. Carolyn asked that people make some cookies if they would like.

Fund Raising Cyndi Sullivan said that the Ball would be called "Harvest Moon" with a farm theme. Tickets will be \$20.00.

Education Jeanette Paul said that she is ready and looking forward to students' visit to the #8 schoolhouse. She asked if anyone has any old fashioned pens that would go with the inkwells.

Grants Helen Goransson said she was hoping to get some results by May from the grant application she sent. She could try applying for another grant in September.

Building Planning Committee Zip Zamarchi said that he is planning another committee meeting in the next few weeks.

Old Business

Denny said that there was no new progress on the certificate for restoration of homes.

There also is no progress on the process and dollar amount for quick purchase of Eliot related artifacts.

Denny said that Eric Christian and Carol Zamarchi are working on the “Then and Now” Photo Contest for Maine Municipal Association.

Denny said that he had written a letter to the Grange about our need for a building. He said that Paul Rousseau, Janet Saurman and himself had been invited to the Grange Ladies’ meeting the previous Tuesday. Denny had told them that we are planning and growing and that we are in an exploratory phase. Denny said that the Grange ladies are grateful for the work done by the Historical Society members on the Grange Hall. They said their relationship with the historical society has been a great one. Denny told them that we have been moving our collection around and would like a permanent spot and perhaps the Grange might have space that we could use even for displays. Denny said the meeting was very congenial, very positive and very open. Denny told them that we would want first right of refusal if the Grange should dissolve and revert back to the state Grange. Margaret Morse said that a lot would depend on who is in power at the time. Denny said that he felt we could both benefit if we worked more closely together. Margaret said “one step at a time”.

Denny reminded everyone of the up and coming bake and yard sale on May 14th. He said one could call Julie to get their items into the schoolhouse and Denny is willing to pick up items for the sale.

Denny suggested that members might like to attend the students’ visitation to the schoolhouse on May 25th approximately 9AM.

Denny asked Eric to speak a little about the upcoming Fernald ceremony. Eric said that it would be May 30th at 2 PM at a cemetery on Goodwin Road. He said that Rosanne Adams, Ray Faulkner and himself would be participating. After 190 years General Andrew Pepperell Fernald will finally be honored with a veteran’s marker.

Denny suggested that those who are interested in coming to the Fernald ceremony might want to park on Forest Ave.

Denny received mail from the United States Department of Commerce in regard to a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Proposal and looking for participation. It's asking if anyone is interested in serving as a consulting party in the process in regard to the National Preservation Act. It has to do with local wetlands and natural habitats and having to do with removing a local dam. He read the letter and said that he will put it at the back of the room. Denny asked that you let him know if you have any interest. He said if there were interest, he would call for more information.

Denny thanked Janet Saurman for the night's refreshments. He then adjourned the meeting and introduced Carol Zamarchi.

Carol came forward to introduce Ernie Weiss who was born in Vienna, Austria in 1931. Carol said that Ernie is Jewish.

Ernie said that he was born May 7, 1931. He said when he was young his family had a good life. His father owned a shoe factory and they had a nice social life. Ernie said that there were 200,000 Jews living in Austria in 1938. Soon after Hitler came into power Austria was annexed to Germany in March of 1938. Ernie said one day his teacher came into the room, faced them, extended her arm at a 45-degree angle and shouted "Heil Hitler". It became apparent that it was not safe to be in Austria anymore. Ernie talked about many experiences faced by the Jews in 1938 and about his father being sent to Dachau. Ernie and all his extended family began doing what it took to move out of the country. The United States was not taking immigrants at the time so Ernie's family began their journey. They traveled through Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Cuba before arriving in the United States in 1946. Ernie talked about his various relatives and how they all spread to various countries in order to survive the Nazi regime. Ernie's family settled in New York before moving to Brookline, MA. He graduated from Brookline High School and Boston University before serving 3 years in the US Army. Ernie was happy to interact with the Society members about his experiences and to answer any questions.

Janet Saurman then served refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary