

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for May 4, 2009
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone including some guests. There were 31 in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the April meeting and they were approved after a couple of changes were made.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson gave the treasurer's report showing debits for our MHS "we the people donation", Grange rental, annual PO Box fee, and collection supplies offset by a credit of \$90 from dues giving a balance of \$2,750.19 in the general fund. In the #8 schoolhouse fund there was a debit of \$750 for annual insurance and \$12.10 for the electrical bill giving a balance of \$144.09. There is a total checking account balance of \$2,894.28. Interest brought the savings account to \$7,171.91. Julie said that our 6 mos. CD with \$10,397.40 matures on 5/7/09. It will renew for another 6mos. @ 1.24%.

There was a brief discussion about the fact that the #8 schoolhouse fund is dwindling and should it be still kept separate from the general fund. Carolyn Bogh suggested that it be brought to the #8 schoolhouse advisory board. That board consisting of Paul Johnson, Julie Johnson, Jeanette Paul and Carolyn Bogh would talk about combining the 2 accounts.

There was another discussion about the cost of the insurance premium. Denny looked into it and found it is considered a commercial policy and carried a heavy liability limit. Denny wondered where the deed is; also do the town or we own the land. He will talk with Roseanne to determine if the school could be insured under the town insurance policy.

Committee Chair Reports:

Programs Carol Zamarchi said that there is nothing new to report. Jonathan Bradstreet, an Eliot artist and illustrator, will be the speaker for the June program.

Collections Julie Johnson said that her committee started working on a display case that the students could see on their visit. They are also working on another exhibit to be placed in the Kennebunk Savings Bank. They have purchased some mannequins to use for the display, which will probably be a woman in wedding gown with her traveling trunk from the period. Julie has also acquired a dome for Florence Moulton's school bell.

Membership Judith Hilt reported that she now has 40 paid members and is still happy to take money for dues.

Building Paul Johnson reported that he is planning a workday on May 9th from 8:30 to 2:00 at the schoolhouse to prepare for upcoming visitors. We have received another thank you from the Grange ladies for work being done by our men. Denny said that Paul has done more electrical work at the Grange.

PR/Publicity Denny told Carolyn that he was pleased with her recent article in the Sentinel newspaper. Carolyn Bogh then reported that student visitations to the schoolhouse will be in two groups on May 20, one at 9AM and another at around 10. Carolyn said that teachers are creating a CD of the visit so each child would get one to take home.

Fund Raising Carol Zamarchi said their committee invited others to an open meeting recently where they talked more about the Bi-Centennial. Ray Faulkner has offered to head up a float committee. Polly said that she would let the Gundalow people know the dates to be at the Boat Basin during the Bi-Centennial. She said they would probably offer to have a children's program at that time. Carol also said that the Russo family has historic items to use for our display purposes at the Bi-Centennial Regatta event.

Education Jeanette Paul reported that Carolyn has done all the planning for the student schoolhouse visitation. Jeanette will be meeting with Paul Johnson and Ray Faulkner in preparation for the visit. Ray announced that he has received an old school slate from a friend, Steve Woodman, who found it in a junk shop in Berwick. This slate has names on it of some of the Paul family. Knowing it seemed to belong in Eliot he is donating it to the Eliot Historical Society.

Bi-Centennial Planning Zip Zamarchi said he is concerned that we try to do more than our small group can handle.

Old Business

Eric Christian reported that on April 25th as requested Peter Sablock from Salem State came with 3 students to the Boat Basin. They used radar trying to determine if the Hammond Homestead might have existed where the lilacs are now. They plan to report to us on their findings in June. He is willing to talk to our members at a convenient time to be decided. The cost was \$330.

New Business

Denny discussed with our members and it was decided that we would again participate in the Eliot Festival Day. Registration is \$35 for a booth. Julie said we could use a \$15 voucher we received as a result of last year's rainout.

After a short discussion, members agreed again to give a donation of \$100 to the Great Works Regional Land Trust.

Judith Hilt said she had received correspondence from a Karen Sommers from CA. Karen is planning a visit to the Eliot area May 15th looking for information on the Neal family.

Announcements

Denny said thanks to Mike Zamarchi and Marshwood High students who worked hard on clean up at two cemeteries. Thanks also to Carol and Zip for their supervision.

Denny thanked Brian Moynihan and Cindi Sullivan for the night's refreshments.

The business meeting then adjourned. Denny introduced program chairman Carol Zamarchi.

Carol in turn introduced our speaker for the night, Jeanette Paul, to talk about World War II Memories. Carol said that she has known that Jeanette is such a wealth of knowledge. Jeanette proceeded to tell us what life was like for the 'wife left behind'. She married Francis Paul in October 1941 and Pearl Harbor was attacked December 7, 1941. He felt strongly about enlisting to defend his country. When the army wouldn't accept him citing his lack of molars, he came home to her with no teeth. With his new false teeth the Navy accepted him and they assigned him to their submarine service. Being a devoted husband and knowing he wouldn't be allowed to tell Jeanette in letters where he was he came up with an extended list of code words before he left so she would know where he was. She passed around the hand written list of code words. Jeanette was given \$80 a month to live on for she and her little daughter. She passed around ration stamp books from the period. She told how they had to stand in line for butter, eggs and cheese. They needed a prescription to get bananas. When the washing machine broke and new ones weren't available, as the metal was needed for the war effort, they washed everything by hand. Because there were military installations in the area everyone had dark green shades on the windows. A warden would come to the door if lights were showing through the windows. She always had a star hanging in her window. There was a period of 5

months that she did not hear from her husband. Francis was in Japan when the Armistice was signed. He had been gone for 3 years. Jeanette answered questions and she had set up tables of items to see including her husband's jacket.

Ray Faulkner was then introduced with his display of 6 flags. He talked about each flag and how they evolved. Ray said that the flags stood for our nation's ideals. Our soldiers fought for these ideals. Betsy Ross' grandson thought that she made the original flag, but that is not known for sure. Ray seemed prepared to tell us more but he cut his talk short due to time restraints.

Refreshments were then served by Brian Moynihan and Cindi Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary