

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for September 12, 2011
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

In the absence of the President Judith Hilt called the meeting to order with 31 people in attendance. She welcomed everyone particularly visitors.

Treasurer's Report Judith asked Julie Johnson to give the financial report for the months of June, July and August 2011. Her report showed debits for the CMP, postage stamps, Grange Rental, Archival supplies, promotional supplies for the Ball and Boat Basin rent for the picnic. She showed credits of a book donation from Helen Goransson, dues, book sales and Ball ticket sales giving a balance of \$1,950.84 in the checking account. The savings account had credits of interest and the Town of Eliot Appropriation check for \$3,300 giving a new balance of \$17,875.60. Julie said that our CD renewed in August with \$10,638.09 for one year at an interest of .5000%. Her report was approved as read.

Committee Chair Reports

Programs Carol Zamarchi said she had nothing new to report at this time. She is getting some good suggestions for next years program.

Collections Julie said that she has a large acquisition from Jean Willis of old Eliot Sections. Julie plans to finish sorting them out in October. Members are welcome to help with the sorting.

Building Paul Johnson said that he is planning a workday on Saturday, October 15th at the schoolhouse from 9AM to 2PM. He welcomed anyone who would like to come out to help.

Fund Raising Cyndi Sullivan said that 100 tickets have been sold so far for the "Harvest Moon Ball". She said that there would be displays from several Eliot farms including the Leavitts, the Weeks, The Raitts, and the Goranssons. She has received some donations from Stonewall Kitchens and chocolates from Lindt. Carol suggested that everyone try to sell at least 2 more tickets.

Education Jeanette Paul said that children often recognize her as the teacher from the #8 schoolhouse.

Building Planning Committee Zip Zamarchi said his committee didn't meet over the summer.

Chairs for Correspondence, Membership, Pr/ Publicity and Grants were not in attendance.

Old Business

Carol Zamarchi said that she entered pictures of the # 8 schoolhouse in the "Then and Now" photo contest for Maine Municipal Association on behalf of the Historical Society as requested by Eliot selectmen. Her pictures were not selected for the municipal calendar, but will be exhibited at the MMA annual convention.

Paul Johnson said that there was a turn out of about 35 people for the annual Eliot Historical Society's picnic at the boat basin. They enjoyed a Luau and had a great time.

Jack McDonough passed around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer to man the Historical Society booth at the Eliot Festival Days from 10-2. There are people already planning to meet at the Elementary School at 7AM to help set up the booth.

New Business

Judith said that the nominating committee includes Helen Goransson, Jeff Koch and Rosanne Adams. They are creating a slate of officers and directors for 2012. Also, the society is looking for a membership chairperson as Janet Saurman has asked to be replaced due to illness. The society thanks Janet for a terrific job. Janet increased the membership by 60%.

Bobbie Beaver came forward to explain and read a proclamation from the Senators and Representatives of the State of Maine to recognize General Andrew Pepperell Fernald of Eliot for his service during the Revolutionary War. Bobbie recognized Eric Christian and Rosanne Adams for their research and efforts to bring about honoring General Fernald with a grave marker, which was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2011. Bobbie went on to read about his life, military service and his time as a public servant. Bobbie then presented the document that she had read to the Eliot Historical Society. She then asked Rosanne to do the honors of introducing any family members in attendance. A Fernald family member stood to thank the Historical Society for their work in bringing about this honor.

Eric Christian stood up to tell members that Lee Downer spotted a find on E-bay. Eric said it appears to be a 1st draft copy, a manuscript of the 1809 petition to the courts of Massachusetts to separate Eliot from Kittery. The interesting thing about this document is that all the petitioners are on it, while the final petition was just signed by Andrew Fernald. The document has a beautiful collection of old signatures of some of the citizens of the town in 1809. It had a bargain price of \$9.50. Lee wants to gift it to the society for the society's collection. Eric said we are keeping our eyes out for artifacts that are important to Eliot's history.

Judith thanked Helen Sullivan for the night's refreshments. She then closed the business meeting and turned it over to the Program Chairman, Carol Zamarchi.

Carol then introduced Rachael Costello who holds a Master's Degree in History from Salem State College and currently works as a librarian. She now resides in the "Hubbard House" at 840 Goodwin Road in Eliot. Last summer she took a graduate course through Salem State University in collaboration with Strawberry Banke on local history with the sole purpose of researching this house, which was purchased by her grandparents in 1961 for \$5,000. She had been intrigued with architectural features of the house along with stories of many famous people who may have visited the house. When her grandparents, the Grants, purchased the house it had no indoor plumbing. Joshua Hubbard who is buried on the property had built the house. Rachael's family worked to restore the home trying to keep it the same while adding modern features like a bathroom. She shared pictures of some of the special features in her home. Stories passed down through the years said that George Washington had dinner in the home. Benedict Arnold stopped at the house on his March to Canada. Lafayette was supposed to have slept at the house. It was interesting that in its infancy the house would have been a modest cottage for all these events to happen. In her research Rachael spent time in Alfred looking thru deeds and looking at probate records. Much research proved that the Hubbard House was built in the early to mid 1700s.

Helen Sullivan then served refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary