

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for Nov. 2nd, 2009
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked the guests to sign up at the back of the room. There were 54 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the October meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson gave her report showing debits for Web Services, stamps, Grange rental, Staples and Best Buy supplies and a credit for selling an Eliot Book giving a balance of \$478.91 in the general checking account. There were debits for the electrical bill and landscaping supplies giving a balance of \$112.83 in the #8 School House Fund. A credit of interest gave the savings account \$10,454.74. Julie said that our CD with a balance of \$10,450.81 is maturing November 7, 2009. It was set to renew for 9 mos. at 1.09%, which will mature August 7, 2010. Her report was approved.

Committee Chair Reports

Program Carol Zamarchi said please let her know if anyone has ideas for programs for 2010. Next years program should be completed by the end of November.

Collections Julie reported that they had removed the exhibit from Kennebunk Savings Bank. She said that they had gotten a very good response on the display.

Membership Report Janet Saurman said that she would be at our booth at the Holiday Bazaar at Marshwood High School to encourage people to become members of the Eliot Historical Society. She said at \$5 it is the best buy in town.

Building Paul Johnson said that he had nothing new to report. As the weather cools they would put more attention to projects at the Grange Hall.

Fund Raising Carol Zamarchi said she has about 25 tickets left to sell for the opening night at Seacoast Repertory Theatre's production of "the Christmas Carol". The cost is \$20 and is clear profit as the Goranssons have donated them to us. Denny said that those who attended last year's production had had a really great time.

Bi-Centennial Subcommittees It was mentioned that Roseanne Junkins and Ed Vetter are making a CD for the Bi-Centennial, which would work as part of a self

guided tour of the historic sites in Eliot. It was discussed that the # 8 schoolhouse would be kept open for the Bi-Centennial. There would be preparation needed and people would be needed to keep it manned. Also the committee would like to come up with a name for the Ball. Paul mentioned that at the time of the previous centennial celebration. There had been signs naming many of the known corners from 'olden days in Eliot'. The committee would like to recreate as many signs again naming those familiar corners.

Old Business

Eric Christian said that he would like to arrange with Peter Sablock to do a program about the results from the radar scan done by Peter and Salem State students looking for the Hammond garrison near the Boat Basin.

New Business

The nominating committee said that they have done some phoning and would like anyone interested in serving to please give them a call.

Paul Johnson has again prepared and submitted a request to the town for funding for the Historical Society. An amount will then be approved at an upcoming town meeting.

Denny said that the library had again asked for a map and some of our note cards for their fundraiser. It was decided to give them that donation.

Announcements

Denny reminded the members that at the December meeting there will be an election of officers and we will have our Christmas Party. People are asked to bring any antique or collectors items they would like to bring for a show & tell.

Denny also thanked Janet Saurman & Carol Zamarchi for the night's refreshments.

Denny then adjourned the business meeting and turned it over to Carol.

Carol then introduced Nate Hazen, a Marine Docent who would give us an armchair cruise on the river. Nate obviously had done his research, was very knowledgeable and well spoken on the history of the region and the local waterways. He is affiliated with the Gundalow Company and told of his concern for the cleanliness of the watershed. He talked about ferries that ran for approximately 50 years before the various bridges spanned the Piscataqua. He gave the history of each bridge and

talked about the evidence that still exists from previous bridges. He discussed numerous shipyards that sprang up and provided ships especially during World War I. He said that John Langdon bought Badger Island in 1800. He produced 50 ships before he died in 1819. Nate told about the 'company' town, which was a self-contained town that sprang up in 1917-1918 on what is now Atlantic Heights. Workers' homes were built around the steel mill. He talked about many ships built in the area, and how before steam the ships came in full on the high tide and moved empty on the low tide. With help from Nate's video presentation and with map overlays we felt as though we had cruised from the mouth of the Piscataqua up the Salmon Falls River to the Hamilton House in S. Berwick. He gave us in-depth information about the history of all the businesses and their owners on both sides of the rivers including power plants, ship building companies and numerous brickyards. Nate then answered questions from the members.

Refreshments were then served by Janet Saurman and Carol Zamarchi.

Respectfully submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary