

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for November 7, 2011
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 40 in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the October meeting. After a correction the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read her financial report showing debits for an electric bill, stamps, Grange rental, collection storage rental, and paint. There were credits from dues and a Ball sponsor giving a balance of \$2,417.68 in the checking account. There was an interest deposit in the savings account giving a balance of \$17,881.58. Her report was approved as read.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership The membership chairman position is still open. Carol said that Sylvia Monahan might be willing to fill the position. Denny asked Sylvia and she agreed. Denny has had the membership book and it is up to date.

Programs Carol said she is wrapping up the listing for programs for next year. If anyone knows of a good program see her soon. She said we try to get speakers who don't charge. The listing should be available next month.

Collections Julie Johnson reported that her committee had met at Tobey's recently to go through and better organize some of the more recent donations. She will be ordering more acid free boxes so we can get some items out of U-Haul boxes.

Building Paul Johnson said that they had a work session on October 22nd. He thanked Denny, Dick Bogh, Skip Brown and Eric Christian for their help. Paul said he hoped to have another workday from 10-3 on Nov. 19th. Denny said that he and Zip did some work on the Grange Hall. He said that the Grange Hall floor is buckling again and will need to be fastened down. Paul also thanked Cindy Lentz for the gardening she did at the schoolhouse.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh said that she is trying to locate some people who attended one-room schools and are willing to talk about their experiences.

Fund Raising Cyndi Sullivan reported that her committee met today and the meeting was very productive. She said that in March they are hoping to get an antique appraiser for the 24th or 31st at a church. People could bring their items to find out their value. They would be charged \$3 for one or \$10 for 3 items. There will be no yard sale this year. The committee is planning a house tour in May. The committee is planning to go out to lunch at the Stage Neck Inn and are inviting anyone else who would like to attend. Please let the committee know. The Historical Society will have a booth at the Holiday Bazaar at Marshwood High School on Dec 14th. There is a sign up sheet for 2-hour shifts to work at the Bazaar.

Education Jeanette Paul said she runs into parents whose younger children are looking forward to visiting the #8 schoolhouse. She gets many comments from previous visitors.

Grants Helen Goransson had nothing new to report.

Building Planning Committee Zip Zamarchi also had nothing new to report.

Old Business

The Nominating Committee, made up of Helen Goransson, Jeff Koch and Rosanne Adams, is working to complete a slate of officers/directors for the 2012 year.

New Business

Denny said that he'd had a letter from a lady from Rhode Island looking for a relative's grave in Eliot. He wanted to thank Roseanne for help in locating the grave. Denny said we have 147 cemeteries in Eliot so it can be difficult to locate individual graves. The lady is now very happy and even offered to come up to help clean the cemetery.

Denny reminded everyone about the December meeting, which will have the election of officers and directors and our Christmas Party. Also please bring an item you consider important to share at our show and tell.

Denny reminded everyone about membership dues for the upcoming year. He said we might want to put our e-mail addresses on the membership sheet. It could be handy to get announcements out to the members in that way.

Paul Johnson said that he had completed another letter requesting funds from the town. He is asking for \$3,300 for 2012, the same amount that the town granted us last year. Denny thanked Paul for handling this task every year.

Carol reminded members of the upcoming program at the middle school on Thurs., November 10th at 8:30 AM honoring veterans. She attended last year and she said it was magnificent.

Denny thanked Jack and Polly McDonough for the night's refreshment.

Denny then wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone to vote. He then adjourned the business meeting and turned it over to the Program Chairman, Carol Zamarchi.

Carol then asked Stephen Dow to come forward to talk to us about the "27th Maine", the volunteer regiment of York County during the Civil War. Carol asked him how he began his collection and he said that his great great great grandfather, James Brown was a private in the Civil War. In his research he learned that most history talks about officers, but he wanted to learn more about the non-officers. Aug 4th, 1862 President Lincoln called for a draft of 3000 men for a state militia to serve for 9 months. The men had to be 18 to 45 years of age. Many young men lied about their age to enlist. Men from Eliot were part of Company G. The 27th Maine Regiment was made up of 1000 men from York County. The "27th" left Camp Abraham Lincoln in Portland, ME on the 20th of October heading for Washington, DC. Stephen told how they traveled by various segments of rail and steamer. He talked about the life of the soldiers including their diet of salt pork, beans and hardtack. They received \$13 a month in salary. It was the "27th's" job to defend Washington, DC so they never engaged in any battles. They were mustered out when their 9 months time was over, just a few days before they would have been sent to Gettysburg. The last surviving soldier from the "27th" died in 1941 at the age of 95. Stephen said that there is an excellent book that talks about the "27th" called "Shower of Stars". It discusses the controversial 864 Medals of Honor that the Secretary of War Stanton gave to each member of the 27th. Stephen was dressed in his Private's Uniform and had brought numerous items from his collection, which he displayed and discussed. He also passed items to members for closer inspection. He was glad to answer any questions.

Jack and Polly then served the evening's refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary