

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting – May 6, 2013

John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

President Rosanne Adams called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were approximately 30 people present at the meeting by the time we all arrived at the final destination, which was the No. 8 Schoolhouse.

Secretary's Report – Helen Goransson read the secretary's report of April 1st which was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report – Richard Bogh read the Treasurer's Report as of May 6, 2013. The report is attached. The balance as of 4/1/13 in checking was \$4405.26. With debits of \$13.33 for electricity and credits of \$50.00 from dues, the balance as of 5/6/13 was \$4441.93. The balance in the savings account as of 3/31/13 was \$20,913.13. Interest of \$1.83 was earned and the balance as of 4/30/13 in savings was \$20,914.96. The report was approved as read.

Upcoming Events – Rosanne noted that the University of Southern Maine's newsletter announced a conference will take place at Star Island on June 26-27, with various interesting workshops and sessions.

Fundraising Committee – Cindy Lentz reported that on June 8th will be the yard sale and bakers may sign up on the list being passed around at the meeting. Denny Lentz will be unable to do pick-ups this year. Set-up will begin at 6 p.m. the night before. The rain date is June 15th. Carol Zamarchi passed out sheets to be used to publicize the event around town.

Cindy also announced that with the end of the school year, our work with End 68 Hours of Hunger will go on summer hiatus.

Publicity and Public Relations – Carolyn Bogh said that we received a nice thank you note from the Rotary Club for the Help Feed Your Neighbors event. She also said that the Eliot Elementary School second graders would be arriving between 9 and 9:30 a.m. on May 8th at the No. 8 Schoolhouse. Jeanette Paul will be able to be the "school marm" again this year. We are also looking into inviting parents to see this place which their children have enjoyed. Another public event is on May 30th when we are invited to see an exhibition of projects by the second graders, along with a slide show and songs pertaining to town history, in the gym of the Eliot Elementary School. Lastly, Carolyn is hoping to have another roundtable, this time of reminiscing for surviving war veterans.

Programs – Carol Zamarchi reminded us about the yard sale. The next meeting will be June 3rd when Julie Johnson will talk about preserving historical artifacts. There will be no meeting in July, and the August meeting is always the cookout at Dead Duck Inn, which will be on August 6th. Bring items to grill and other food, and there could even be leftovers from the yard sale there. Denny Lentz will reserve the picnic area.

Building Committee – Zip Zamarchi noted there will be another meeting on the third Monday of the month. He mentioned that the high school kids did a good job at the Frost Tufts field, Library, and cemeteries.

There was nothing new to report from the Directors, Correspondence, Membership, Publicity, Grants and Collections committees.

Old Business – Rosanne reported that the Carter Cemetery is on the Selectmen's agenda to discuss the discrepancy between the \$10,000 of damage and the \$1,100 received for repairs. Denny Lentz added that the town was advised to not cash the \$1100 check and have the insurance company see the damage themselves, which is probably what will be discussed at the meeting.

New Business – Rosanne mentioned that Donald Ketzler wrote 12 pages of reminiscences of living in Eliot while he was a Brixham Road resident. Rosanne read aloud some of his writing which was very entertaining. When his family arrived from New York to Eliot they knew nothing about farming, he attended one of the one-room schoolhouses, and he described the primitive life in town during those days, when there were dirt roads, outhouses, people hunted and fished for food, and guns were very important to the town citizens. Donald never took to hunting and his story about shooting a rabbit was amusing and poignant. His stories are found on our website and worth reading. He would make an interesting program speaker and he is also knowledgeable about the city of Portsmouth.

Denny Lentz also pointed out that Paul Rousseau had photos of the reconstruction of the Tea Room at the Lanier Camp property and he suggested that a certificate presented by the Historical Society would be in order recognizing the historical preservation of the place.

Acknowledgements – Thanks to Fran and Sally Hartford for the night's refreshments. We would see them at the No. 8 Schoolhouse where the meeting would continue.

Evening's Program – The business meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and folks carpoled to the No. 8 Schoolhouse where the program was led by Paul Johnson. Paul presented a slide show about the place. Although it has been restored to resemble its original use as a schoolhouse, the school had closed in 1908. Then it was owned by the town, the fire department in 1934 and the cemetery for storage, then back to the town which subsequently passed it along to the

Historical Society. Glynn and Sturgis were professional restorers who looked at the project. The building was built on slate and bricks and the sill was rotted. There was no ceiling when they started, but workers and mostly volunteers helped restore it. There are some joints along the roof that suggest the building may be older than we know and could have been an older building moved to that spot when it was established as a school. Those who worked on it included Paul Johnson who helped out with most tasks, John Amee who restored a lot of the windows, Steve Clausson who worked on the roof, Richard Shapleigh on the doors, and Lyndon Leavitt who replaced the rotted sills section by section. Eldredge Lumber provided the clapboards, Julie Johnson cleaned off the old mortar from the bricks, and then Lyndon laid those bricks with Paul's help. He was at least 83 years old at the time and his motto was "I work slow and rest often." His son Dale helped put up the clapboards. Keith Leavitt helped recreate the wainscoting. Others involved included Denny Lentz and Jack McDonough, among so many others and Zip Zamarchi and others finished it off. In 2004 the Historical Society had its first house tour with the No. 8 Schoolhouse included. Judith Hilt obtained some grant money for the project in 2006. The school books were put together by Jeanette Paul and the displays were the work of the collections committee and other members. The reconstruction came to about \$2000 vs. the \$44,000 that was originally estimated, thanks to the tireless efforts and generosity of time, talent and treasure of so many. Paul Johnson's slide show of the evolution of the building was very informative and the refreshments provided by the Hartfords were delicious.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Goransson