

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting – September 9, 2013

John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot

President Rosanne Adams called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were 39 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report - Helen Goransson read the minutes of the June 3rd meeting which were prepared by Dorothy Hansen in Helen's absence. There was one correction to be made and the minutes were approved as amended. Helen thanked Dorothy for writing the minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Richard Bogh read the Treasurer's Report as of September 9, 2013. The report is attached. The balance as of that date in the checking account was \$4,755.34. There were debits of \$73.25 including electricity and a table for Eliot Festival Day. There were credits totaling \$1,740.85 which included \$545.85 from the yard sale, \$25 in dues, and a \$35 donation from Bob Fisher to pay for the table at Eliot Festival Day, along with \$1,135.00 generously donated by the Kennebunk Savings Bank thanks to their annual public ballot program which designates non-profits to receive funds based on votes from the public. Richard pointed out that this was almost double the amount received last year. The balance in the savings account as of 9/9/13 was \$20,921.95. Interest of \$5.21 was earned since the last report was made on 5/31/13. The report was approved as read.

Richard also reminded members that we will miss our \$3,000 from the budget cut which was recently approved as we have expenses including rental of the Grange and use of storage space at Tobey's Sheet Metal, insurance for the schoolhouse, utilities and other expenses. He encouraged members to work towards reinstating this budget line in future town budgets and continue fund-raising efforts.

Correspondence – We received a letter dated August 2, 2013 (attached) from Edward Andrews of Bronx, NY who is restoring an 18th century house in Massachusetts and would like to find 18th century brick, marble or limestone rubble, and floorboards from a house

which we might know of that is being demolished. He offered to donate \$100 to the EHS in return for information leading to his purchase of the aforementioned items.

We also received a thank you note from Donna Shapleigh on behalf of the Shapleigh Family Association thanking members Paul Johnson and Bud Moynahan for their help in removing and cutting up a large tree limb from their Fore Road cemetery.

Collections Committee – Julie Johnson reported that she received more Boy Scout pictures from the Rousseaus and an item from Nancy Cultrera.

PR/Publicity Committee – Carolyn Bogh noted that Fair Tide appreciated the yard sale leftover items they received from us. She will also submit an article for the website and newspapers acknowledging the large donation from the Kennebunk Savings Bank thanks to the EHS being well supported by the public, pointing out that we have free programs each month on interesting topics with delicious free refreshments. Carolyn is also working on a Veterans Day round table highlighting veterans in town who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Middle East conflicts. The event will take place around Veterans Day.

Other committees had nothing new to report.

Old Business – Carol Zamarchi asked about the Eliot Festival Day and discussion followed about our presence there. Jeanette Paul expressed that it was important to be there for public visibility. The group agreed to man a table where baked goods and historical items would be sold. Check with Carol or Sylvia Moynahan or Cindy Lentz if you wish to volunteer. If there are not enough, people will be contacted.

Jeanette Paul reported that she received a letter from the children of Frances Cole Richardson dated August 28, 2013 (attached) in which they describe the memorial they wish to have for their mother to be located at the schoolhouse on Greenwood Street. It would be a stone bench engraved in memory of Frances, whose back will like an open book, and would include a line from one of Jeanette Paul's poems. The letter included a photo of the bench and it could be installed as early as the end of September, depending on the engraver. The family would pay all the expenses. It was suggested to place this on the side of the school near the hedges so as not to infringe on parking or repairs. Zip Zamarchi moved, and Polly McDonough seconded, to have the advisory board (consisting

of Zip, Paul Johnson, Eric Christian, Carolyn Bogh and Jeanette Paul) make the final decision as to its placement. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Carol Zamarchi thanked Paul Johnson and Zip Zamarchi and others who might have been involved in mowing and gardening all summer at the Grange and the schoolhouse.

Acknowledgements – Roseanne thanked Skip and Margie Brown for providing the evening's refreshments.

Evening's program – Rosanne adjourned the business meeting at 7:35 p.m. and called on Program Chairman, Carol Zamarch, to introduce the evening's speaker. Peter Randall, who is a long-time publisher and author of many books, has produced a film entitled "Farming 101" and we would be viewing this 70-minute-long film. Peter explained that he enjoys photography and with the help of his grandson and his daughter who has since taken over his publishing business, he compiled research and photos and video footage of the various farm enterprises on Route 101 in Kittery and Eliot. This is the basis of the film and it is available for purchase from him. This film was especially useful during the awareness- and fund-raising campaign to save the Johnson dairy farm of Eliot and Kittery, known as Rustlewood, from being sold for development. Instead, it is well on its way to being conserved as a farm and protected through the Great Works Land Trust.

The film does a wonderful job of chronicling the struggles of the various farmers who have worked along Route 101, including such families as the Johnsons, Leavitts, Kashmeres, Moultons, Schultzes, Rowans, Frosts, Emerys, Pettigrews, Butlers, Goodwins, Hammonds and many others. In the 1930's there were 29 dairy farms on this route. Now there is only one left in Kittery and the Schultz farm in Eliot. The farms have fallen away for various reasons – financial, the work is too hard for most, fires, and lack of interest by family members or others to keep them going. Interestingly, the number of cows on Route 101 is probably about the same as it was before because farms were smaller with families keeping fewer than 20 cows on their farms. Nowadays, the remaining farms have many more cows because they need to be larger operations in order to survive. Our local milk supplies such major companies as Hood, Garelick and West Lynn Dairy. The film also spotlighted a few of the farm-related enterprises along Route 101, including Eleanor Pearsall's Case equipment and tractor business, John Sullivan's collection of John Deere and other tractors, Ken Tuttle's cider mill which began

with Bert Tuttle in 1903 and continues to this day, and hay growers and wood millers. It remains to be seen how long farming will continue along Route 101, but all would agree that the views are beautiful year-round.

The film ended at 8:55 p.m. and guests enjoyed the refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Goransson, Secretary