

Allen

THE ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Eliot Historical Society convened on January 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at the Grange Hall. President Rosanne Adams wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The Secretary's report for the December 2014 meeting was read by Barbara Hanson. Helen Goransson was on vacation. According to Paul Johnson, there were three corrections to be made: Skip Brown, Roseanne Adams and Robbie Christian also helped on the Frost Garrison brush and landscaping clean up. Bob Fisher made the motion to accept report as corrected. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Toni Searles. The Balance as of 12/31/14 is \$23,760.74. (\$9,499.95 is in the Checking Account and \$10,791.94 in the Certificate of Deposit.) Bob Fisher moved the report be accepted as read, seconded by Paul Johnson. Motion passed.

Helen Sullivan wrote thank you notes to all who gave donations in memory of Bruce Wallingford to the Society.

Membership: Dues are due are for the new year.

Fund Raising: Silvia Moynihan gave the report in lieu of Cindy Lentz, who had knee replacement surgery today.

Hap Moore has agreed to do another Antique Appraisal for the Society this year. The date has been set for March 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will take place at the Methodist Church as in the past.

A Yard Sale will be held in May or June of this year for another fund raiser. Further details will be announced at a later time. Start saving items to be donated to make it a success.

Building Committee: Paul Johnson said the American flag ^{pole} at the School House needs to be replaced. He suggested a 12 – 16 ft. size. Bob Fisher volunteered to donate the money to purchase it. *Flagpole*

Old Business:

A festive Christmas luncheon at the Stage Neck Inn in York was enjoyed by approximately 12 people.

The visit to the beautifully decorated Victorian Mansion in Portland before Christmas and lunch at DeMillo's was also enjoyed by some of our members.

New Business:

Julie Johnson said she will audit the financial accounts for the past year and will give a report at the March 2015 meeting.

Paul Johnson said he has submitted a request to the Town of Eliot for \$3,225 to be put into the Budget for the coming year in support of the Society.

Paul Johnson proposed the following program be considered for approval by the Society. It would be a talk entitled: "The Castle: The Portsmouth Naval Prison" by Neil Novello. This talk was given earlier at the Rice Library in Kittery which could only accommodate 35 pre-registered people and many were turned away. Paul thought this would be a perfect program to offer for all who could not attend earlier and those who are interested. It would be sponsored by the Eliot Historical Society. He contacted the Regatta and they are willing to let the Society use their facility for free. There would be a "Cash Bar" available. It would take place February 10th at 5:00 p.m. for "Meet and Greet", and at 6:00 p.m. would be the featured talk. There is a \$100 fee. Paul asked if the Society would like to sponsor this. Jack McDonough made the motion to approve this program and that we pay the \$100 fee. It was seconded by Bob Fisher. Motion was approved by the membership. It was also suggested that a "Donation" jar be made available at the entrance, but no open solicitation be made.

Barbara Hanson announced that Jan. 5th was both her and her husband's birthdays. Roseanne said it was also Jeannette Paul's, so we all sang "Happy Birthday"!

Carol Zamarchi announced that the speaker for the evening's program had not shown up.

Roseanne took the opportunity to tell us about an existing conflict regarding Hillside cemetery on Bolt Hill Rd. She said she talked to Joel Moulton, Superintendent of Works, about the difficulty of getting into some of the cemeteries. Then she talked about a conflict regarding Mary Lizzy Spinney's will. She died in 1928 and is the last person to be buried in the Hillside cemetery. She left a \$500 fund to take care of the cemetery. Her will stipulated that after 75 years, the fence surrounding the cemetery was to be taken down. The stones were to be removed and the land was to be given back to the owners of the land where the cemetery is located. The problem is there is a Revolutionary War veteran buried there. State statutes may take precedence over personal wishes and not allow this to be done. Roseanne has contacted MOCA (Maine Old Cemetery Association) for advice on this and she is waiting to hear from them. Zip Zamarchi asked if there was any money left in the trust. Roseanne said it had been moved into the Fund for the Poor.

Julie Johnson told us that when the School House was being restored, and the back wall was removed, there were school papers belonging to Mary Lizzy Spinney that fell out of the wall. Julie saved these papers, framed them, and they are now hanging in the School House.

Denny Lentz was asked how Cindy was doing after her knee replacement surgery. She is doing very well. We all wish her well.

With time to spare, Denny Lentz also told us about "Bundling" Pennsylvania-Dutch style. The farms in Pa. were very far apart, so if a young man wanted to visit his lady friend on a neighboring farm, they often had to stay overnight since traveling by horse and buggy in the dark was probably not very safe and the distance great. The young couple was allowed to sleep in the same bed, but they were tied by the neck with a heavy sack at the end. They could talk, but not much else!

The meeting was adjourned. Delicious refreshments were served by Sylvia Moynihan and Carol Zamarchi.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly McDonough

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For Helen Goransson