

## **ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting – October 5, 2015**

President Rosanne welcomed all at about 7 p.m.

**Secretary's Report** –The minutes of the September meeting were approved with two corrections.

**Treasurer's Report** – The report for the period September 1-30, 2015 was read and approved. To summarize, as of end-month, there was \$27,003.69 in savings, \$9,923.10 in checking, and \$10,824.39 in the certificate of deposit (see attached). Credits included proceeds from the Town of Eliot of \$3225, Eliot Festival Day sales of \$241, and total interest on all accounts of \$5.93. Expenses included the monthly payment to Eliot Rent-A-Space of \$155, rent for the Grange of \$50, electricity and stamps. The treasurer will contact Kennebunk Savings Bank about the check they are holding for us from their community funding program.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Correspondence** – Helen Sullivan wrote a thank you to Doris Grover for food given for Eliot Festival Day.

**Programs** – Carolyn Bogh announced that for November we will be hosting a birthday party. Those who wish will tell about what was happening in their lives when they were 21 years old. In December is the annual holiday party and show and tell.

**Fundraising** – Cindy Lentz thanked everyone for our successful yard sale in June and great results at Eliot Festival Day, and reminded us that now we are on to the Christmas fair at Marshwood High School in early December.

**Collections** – Paul Johnson reported that we have received the donation of some boxes from Ed Vetter's family and there is more to come. We need to go through them. Among the treasures received were some unusual bricks with mysterious markings on them. We are hot on the trail trying to figure out where these were used.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

As was reported in past minutes, Robert Fisher donated a replacement flagpole for the schoolhouse but it is not up yet as we had to build a base for it first. It should be up the next weekend.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Rosanne reported that we presented a proposal to the people from the Grange about building a space downstairs in which to house our collection. It would be self-contained and climate-controlled and we would rent this from them at \$100/month, which includes utilities. We may need to use a dehumidifier during the summer months. Our proposal is complete and ready for submission to their leadership and they had no objections to it. This is much better than the Rent-a-Space we use which is not climate controlled and much more expensive. Robert Fisher said they are amenable to our proposal because they like us and we have had a good long-term relationship with them. We are trying to make this happen before the winter. It will cost us \$2000-\$3000 to build out the space for our needs but what we construct will be portable if we ever had to move.

Robert Pomerleau talked to the group about the TIF surveys that have been mailed out to all households and reminded everyone to get theirs in by October 21. In order for the data to be statistically valid, they need at least 500 surveys back. When the town rejected three times the proposal to use TIF funds for a new sewer, a group was formed, the TIF Alternatives Committee, to ascertain what the town wanted to do with that money. It will take about one and a half years to come up with a suggestion to be voted upon at the next November election.

Denny Lentz gave a brief synopsis of the new Town Charter to be voted upon at this coming November election. Some members of the historical society are on the town charter committee and they explained that this would be the equivalent of a constitution for our town. It defines our governance. If we did not have it, the town would be subject to the state of Maine's rules and regulations, which don't necessarily fit with how we would want to run our town.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Refreshments, thanks to Robert Fisher and Rosanne Adams and the leftovers from Eliot Festival Day, were well appreciated.

## **Program**

Rosanne Adams and Paul Johnson talked about and showed us photos of their recent discoveries and rebuilding project at the old Nathaniel Remick cemetery at a house on

State Road near Bolt Hill Road. The original land grant went to Christian Remick. His son Nathaniel married Jane Libbey. They had a son Samuel who married Anne Fernald. They had 3 sons, 2 who lived. One married a Lughton. Nathaniel is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation down from the original Christian Remick who received the land grant. In February 2014 the Halferty's purchased that house from the Leathes and they found some gravestones buried in the ground. Upon closer investigation, 4 more sets of gravestones were found. They asked for the help of historical society members, and Rosanne and her mother and Paul Johnson, using probes and digging gently, found headstones and pedestals among the roots. This site had been used as a dumping ground for generations so that the family cemetery was forgotten. The family line had died out so it was not maintained. It was missed by John Frost's inventory of cemeteries, although it should have been obvious as it possessed the typical granite posts and iron bars used in family cemeteries. Denny Lentz also chipped in with the heavy work of finding and moving and positioning the grave stones. 3 are complete and 6 have been found so far, which belong to Forrest, Leonora, Ida Mae, Arabella, Nathaniel and Betsey, and are dated around 1860-1880. A couple of these were small children. The town should be taking care of the cemeteries around town, but this one, not being listed before, was forgotten.

There is an Eagle Scout candidate by the name of Adam Driver who is working on a project to restore an old cemetery near the home of Barbara and John Sullivan. Rosanne has written a letter to the town instructing people on the way to do this properly. There are 163 private cemeteries in town. Some are in the middle of the woods. Some are still being used. Efforts by individuals, boy scouts, families, the town and the state help restore and maintain these cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary