

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting – December 7, 2015

Before the meeting was called to order Santa Claus paid a visit and gave gifts to those who were nice this year. Thank you, Santa.

President Rosanne welcomed all at about 7 p.m. There were 35 people present.

Secretary's Report –The minutes of the November meeting were approved with one correction.

Treasurer's Report – The report for the month of November and the annual report were read and approved. To summarize, as of fiscal year end, there was \$29,308.50 in savings vs. \$23,758.59 at the start of the year, \$8,972.46 in checking vs. \$9,318.79 at the start of the year, and \$10,831.63 in the certificate of deposit vs. \$10,788.39 at the start of the year (see attached). Credits came from interest, fundraising, donations, and the town of Eliot. Debits included rent, utilities, insurance, operational and fundraising expenses, and donations and gifts provided by the Historical Society.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Correspondence – Rosanne reported that we received a request from the Great Works Regional Land Trust for a donation. We have given \$100 in the past. Since we will be having a meeting in February devoted to our budgetary and strategic planning, we decided to postpone our decision on that. Also, we received a letter from the Town about our budget needs for the coming year. Information was due on December 4th. Paul Johnson will work on this and submit it. December 8th is the first meeting of the Budget Committee.

Programs – Carolyn Bogh reminded us that in January we will be hearing from Dick McKenney about the history of those who once owned land adjoining his former property on Goodwin Road. Sylvia Moynahan was the one who suggested that in February we have a business meeting to look at our by-laws and how we function and other business matters, and we decided to do just that.

Fundraising – Cindy Lentz announced that our raffle of the antique crocheted bedspread and our table at the Holiday Bazaar at Marshwood High School have added more funds to our coffers. The raffle alone has earned us \$178. The bazaar earned us \$243. Many thanks to our bakers and to Margie Brown for the raffle item. Cindy also announced the annual luncheon, this time at the York River House, on December 11th.

Collections – Jeannette Paul donated some items from her personal collection.

Building Committee - Paul Johnson reported that after much deliberation we have worked out with the folks who own the Grange to have us use the building and build a storage room downstairs for the Historical Society's collection. The committee met in November and came up with a team of workers and drew up a list of materials. We requested discounts from Lowe's and Home Depot and went with Lowe's more generous offer. Work is scheduled to begin on Thursday, December 10th to put up the walls, sheetrock, install doors, wire the area and do the finishing. All are invited to help. The rent will be \$100/month. Grant Hirst suggested we check on our insurance coverage and that of the Grange. Paul Johnson agreed to do so.

Membership - See Sylvia Moynahan for dues payments.

NEW BUSINESS

Rosanne announced that she will be providing a newsletter for members.

Rosanne reported that Adam Driver, the Eagle Scout candidate, has completed his restoration of the Welch cemetery.

Rosanne shared information which she was asked to provide on behalf of the Historical Society by the Planning Board in consideration of a proposed development on land belonging to the Libbey family. Rosanne and Eric Christian worked on the research which took about 10 days, and gave this to the Planning Board for their November 17th meeting. This represented about 100 hours of research, and it involved visiting the Libbeys and contacting the Maine Historic Preservation Society's Ted Baker, too. The report was reviewed by 2 other members of the EHS and submitted both electronically and in hard copy. The report concluded that the project would destroy Old Libbey Lane which has historical significance to the town. At the November 17th meeting the chairman dismissed the report as only coming from one citizen vs. the Historical Society and to Rosanne's knowledge it still had not been discussed by the Planning Board. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and approved that we write a letter to the Planning Board stating that we endorse the actions of our president in responding to their request for historical information pertaining to the Libbey development and that our research revealed that this is a historical site and this was submitted as a report to the Planning Board from the Historical Society. In addition, the letter will state that as a matter of policy in the future, when asking the Historical

Society for input on historical aspects of development projects, that requests be made as early in the application process as possible and that the president of the Eliot Historical Society be a recipient of any applications in the future in order to comment on a timely basis. The secretary of the Historical Society was charged with writing this letter to the Town. Rosanne will be filing the research and report in the Historical Society's archives.

The new slate of officers was elected as follows: President – Rosanne Adams, Vice President – Paul Johnson, Secretary – Helen Goransson, Treasurer – Toni Searles, and Directors – Carolyn Bogh, Richard Bogh, and Eric Christian.

The winner of the raffle for the antique bedspread was Carol Zamarchi.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

We thanked Zip and Carol Zamarchi and Sylvia Moynahan for the evening's refreshments and enjoyed the Christmas party atmosphere.

Program

This was our annual show-and-tell and folks brought in many fascinating items, including a whale's tooth scrimshaw, a christening gown from 1922, dog tags from a sailor in a U-boat battle, an antique hat box of spruce and pine from the mid-1800's, a Bellamy eagle, old news articles, books and magazines, a 1957 map of Eliot, a German Luger and holster from a WWII battle, someone's great grandmother's marriage certificate, and even a horse's jingle bells.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary