

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the meeting – February 1, 2016

President Rosanne Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 30 people in attendance. The format of the meeting was as follows: a short business meeting, a break to have refreshments, the remainder of the meeting was spent brainstorming and discussing the Society and its future direction.

Secretary's Report – The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved with three corrections.

Treasurer's Report - The report for the month of January was approved. Credits were from dues and a refund from the Storage. Debits were supplies for the storage space, Central Maine Power, and John F. Hill Grange. The ending balances were: 1) checking account - \$7222.55, 2) certificate of deposit - \$10,838.87, and 3) savings account - \$29,313.32.

Correspondence – Helen Sullivan sent a "Get Well" card to Don Durheimer who had knee replacement surgery. Rosanne sent thank you notes to Steven Bishop for the canvas wall painting of the Nightingale and Karen Anderson for the wooden snow roller.

Membership – Sylvia Moynahan said the Society was given a "Happy New Year \$50 donation" by the family of Florence Moulton. Sylvia responded with a thank you note.

Collections – Keith Searles donated five enlarged post card prints of Eliot to the Society. Julie said they were on display downstairs if we wanted to see them.

Building Committee - Paul Johnson reported that the storage area just needs some electrical work to be finished, some cleanup and odds and ends to be done. Paul cleaned up a Victorian mirror which had been part of a sideboy left by the Grange. Is anyone interested in it?

Nominating Committee – Rosanne said Sylvia Moynahan and Carol Zamarchi are currently on the Nominating Committee for this year.

Program – Carolyn Bogh announced that the Marshwood High School advisor to the "We the People" Constitutional competition, Matt Sanzone, would be the speaker at the March meeting. John Richardson will be our speaker for the April meeting. He will talk about his collection of Eliot-related military memorabilia. These items are from his father, Herman Richardson, his grandfather Gordon Richardson, Joe and Rebecca Frost, and Ralph Sylvester Bartlett.

Fundraising – Nothing to report at this time.

Brainstorming Session – The following is a list of topics the membership thought should be addressed in re-examining and re-evaluating our Historical Society for the future:

Insurance Review
 Review By-laws
 Duties of the Board of Directors
 Goals of the Historical Society – Short term & Longterm
 Building – a permanent home for the Society
 Method of electing officers
 Frequency of meetings
 Membership
 Collections
 Picture of Dr. Willis the founder of the Society displayed
 Public Relations – website, Eliot OnLine, a map of Eliot, signs, a newsletter
 Programs - Speakers
 Fundraising

Insurance Review – Grant Hirst gave his report on the result of his interview with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. (report attached):

Value of Schoolhouse #8 building - \$124,027 - 80% coinsurance - \$500 deductible....	\$328
Value of Contents - \$15,912 - 80% coinsurance - \$500 deductible.....	70
Liability - rated as museum, non-profit.....	237
 Total annual premium.....	 \$635

There is no insurance right now on the contents of anything we have at the Grange, i.e. collections. We need to place a value on our collections so we can get coverage from the insurance company. That needsto be remedied.

We have employee dishonesty coverage as part of the policy, but we have no employees so we probably don't have any coverage. Do we need to get a schedule bond for anyone who might need it? We could do that. We need to notify Liberty Mutual about our current location and report the corrected value of our properties.

Grant said he would get back to the agent at the insurance company and make any changes that the group wants. He also suggested that the officers and Directors be given the authority to make such changes in the policy from time to time as the need arises.

Discussion followed regarding the coverage. If there was a fire under our current policy and everything was destroyed, we would get \$16,000. Jan Cerabona brought up that we should check some other historical societies to find out what they are doing. Grant said he would check on that and perhaps there is a special insurance company just for historical societies. After much discussion, Rosanne suggested the Board of Directors and officers be given the power to make changes to the policy, that we double the value of the policy, and that we check

on bonding for those working with the finances. This was made into a motion by Zip Zamarchi, seconded by Paul Johnson. The motion passed. Grant will give the name of the insurance broker in Biddeford who is handling the policy to Helen Sullivan and she will write a letter on letterhead. Ruth Drake suggested we get our collection appraised so we could move forward. Polly McDonough suggested Maureen and John Boyd who are antique appraisers who live in Eliot. Carolyn Bogh asked if we could give Grant written permission to talk to alternative agents. He said the one we have now does not require anything written. A newer agent/agency would require written authority. Our current premium is due in May. Grant said the best time to make any changes is on the anniversary date. Jack McDonough thought it was a good idea to check with other agencies because there is a tendency for them to become complacent and premiums go up or there are better options with a different agency. Paul Johnson said we had already experienced that. Grant was given approval to get quotes from other agencies. Helen Sullivan will write a letter from the Society giving Grant the right to do this.

Review By-laws – Duties of the Board of Directors - Rosanne suggested that the officers and the Directors review the By-laws. Carolyn Bogh said the By-laws do not actually say what the Directors' duties are. So they will review, update and make any corrections, i.e. how often should the membership meet? The Directors and officers meet? Their phone numbers/e-mails will be posted for the membership so they could be contacted if people have questions. The Directors will report back to the membership in May. The annual membership dues need to be changed to \$10 in the By-laws.

Goals of the Society – Short term & longterm – What are they?
Everyone should be thinking about this and bring ideas back for discussion.

Building- Is this one of our real goals? How are we going to achieve this goal? How long do we wait for the Grange members to make a decision about granting us the building?

Review how officers are elected –

Frequency of Meetings – How often should the membership meet? Consensus seemed to be to continue meeting as we have been once a month, except for August. It was suggested that we talk with the Old Berwick Historical Society to learn how they have structured themselves. Rosanne favored the way Eliot has always structured their meetings. Other societies were mentioned and how they operate.

Speakers – Where in our meeting sequence should we have the speaker for program? The question needs to be addressed about whether to pay speakers.

Collections – It was suggested that a picture of Dr. Willis, the founder of our Society be procured and displayed where our meeting takes place. Keith Searles recommended that the wooden snow roller which is a recent acquisition needs protection from the elements since it is old and wood rots. Members would like to see more of our collection. Julie plans to display

some objects from the collection at each meeting in the coming months to make us all aware of what is in the collection. Julie feels we need a curator. There is more cataloging to be done.

Membership - Jack McDonough suggested we try to increase the membership to help us grow. We need new members to help with the many aspects required in having a viable Society.

Fundraising - Polly McDonough said if each member donated \$1 at each meeting, it would be a small monthly donation that would add up.

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Polly McDonough".

Polly McDonough for Helen Goransson