

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting – June 6, 2016

President Rosanne Fisher called the meeting to order. There were about 26 people present.

Secretary's Report –The minutes of the May meeting were approved as read with 2 corrections.

Treasurer's Report – The report for the month of May was approved. The balances as of end-May were \$5,985.16 in checking and \$40,176.46 in the Building Fund savings account and certificate of deposit (report attached). Income came from dues, donations and bank interest. Expenditures included donations, electricity and expenses to prepare for the annual visit of the #8 Schoolhouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants – Jan Cerabona clarified the goals of the historical enhancement grant for which the Eliot Elementary School will be applying through of the efforts of Lisa Hippern and Ann Shisler. They would like to do a better job of teaching Eliot history and, since Eliot is not like South Berwick which can do a walk through history through their downtown, the idea is to have Laurie Downey help town history come alive through a murals project, where the display can be portable so it can go to various places in the town, such as the school, town hall, where people vote, meetings, where people work, etc. Once school starts up again, children will interview people who have knowledge of the town's history to provide the background they need for their project. They will be applying for state grants in order to be fully funded by the start of the school year and will need to demonstrate local support for this to strengthen their proposal. Laurie Downey calls it "The Local Stories Project." It is a hands-on learning experience with a public component to it and our 7- and 8-year-olds will become historians in the process. Denny Lentz made a motion and Margie Brown seconded the motion to support this project and its related grant proposals. This passed unanimously. Bobbi Beavers moved that we allocate \$200 towards this project. Jan Cerabona seconded. Jan Cerabona and Ann Shisler will keep us updated. This is a win-win for potentially growing the Eliot Historical Society through the involvement of children and their families. Eric Christian pointed out that this is in line with our mission. Others agreed and this was also approved.

Education – Carolyn Bogh reported on the Schoolhouse visit. 60 children came on June 3rd and we did not have anyone there who had personally been in a one-room school,

however, six students knew people with that experience. This may be the last year Jeannette Paul will be there for us. Thank you to those who prepared the building, especially the garden.

Building – Paul Johnson extended thank you's to those who took part in the recent work days, the first to Skip Brown who helped to remove debris around the Grange Hall with him, and the second work group who prepared the schoolhouse, which included Zip, Denny, Keith, Skip, Margie and Julie and Paul. The next job will be tackling the grass.

Correspondence – Rosanne reported we received a thank you letter from the Great Works Regional Land Trust for our donation.

Collections – Julie Johnson reported receipt from Keith Searles of a photo of the town's 1934 championship baseball team and an old-style gutter which is on display. We have also received a 1996 quilt made by Eliot Elementary School students of Mrs. Johnson. This had been used as a fundraising project for the restoration of the No. 8 Schoolhouse in 1996. The winner of the quilt has donated it back to the Historical Society. Keith Searles also donated an old deed for the Remick house on Pleasant Street. Keith wondered if we could display some of our pictures upstairs in the Grange as well. Rosanne will ask the Grange ladies and Julie Johnson if they are agreeable to our doing this.

Programs - Carolyn Bogh reminded us there is no meeting in July. There is a visit planned to the NH Farm Museum in Milton on July 7th. In August the annual picnic starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring things for the grill and an item to share. In September there will be a quiz – facts about presidents.

Fundraising – Carol Zamarchi, who had won the antique quilt from one of our recent raffles, reported that it looks lovely in her home. Rosanne also mentioned that we need to plan for Eliot Festival Days and Denny Lentz said that we have reserved our booth again this year. The co-chairs for this are Carol Zamarchi and Sylvia Moynahan.

OLD BUSINESS

Rosanne talked about the research that was performed by Carolyn, Eric and Rosanne pertaining to the historical significance of Old Libbey Lane and reported that we have received from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission a determination letter that this has been approved to be part of the Maine Historic Resources Inventory and is

eligible for designation in the National Register of Historic Places. Even if the landowner does not apply for that designation, it is now subject all the protections as if it were on the Federal Register. Rosanne mentioned that there is activity in town to try to put a conservation easement on that entire property and the Historical Society and its members may be asked to support that.

We thanked the Searles and Jeannette Paul for the evening's refreshments.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned around 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

John Richardson, one of our members, shared some of his collection of military memorabilia. He has been collecting items since 1982. This hobby began when he played pretend war games with neighborhood kids as a boy. This grew into a connection he made with other collectors to increase his collection. He has items from Joe and Rebecca Frost, Ralph Sylvester Bartlett, and others. His grandfather was a cook in the Navy and he has some of his things. Among his treasured collectibles is a Civil War blade that dates back to 1810. Joe Frost, whose job included identifying dead bodies during the World War, had a collection of shrapnel. John has his grandfather's pipe-fitting tools, his seabag, photos of his grandfather and his buddies, and books from his collection dating back to the 1800's. Ralph S. Bartlett was a cadet in the Coast Guard during 1893-94 and we saw some items from that time. John brought a Civil War ID tag, military medals from a hero at Iwo Jima, insignias, footwear used in various wars, and many other items. John was in the army for several years himself. His collection is far more extensive than the items we saw, so seek him out if you are interested in seeing more.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary