

## **ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting – March 6, 2017**

President Paul Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were 34 people present. He thanked Pam Ashley and Cindy Lentz for the refreshments that evening.

**Secretary's Report** –The minutes of the February meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report** – Pam Ashley reported that the 2016 audit was completed by Julie Johnson who found no discrepancies in the records. Pam gave the report for the month ending February 28, 2017. The report was approved as presented. The balances were \$8,315.80 in checking and \$40,231.26 in the Building Fund accounts (report attached). Income came from dues. Expenditures were for rental, electricity, and supplies for electrical repairs.

Prior to the committee reports, Connie Weeks and Kim Richards from the town's Conservation Commission addressed the members concerning a subject that has historical and environmental repercussions on the town. There have been rumors that the town budget will eliminate the land bank funds. In fact, no money has been appropriated to the land bank for a few years now during the budgetary process. There is \$71000 there, but a vote will be taken at the next election to use \$40000 of it to help purchase the development rights of the Goodwin property which abuts the town woods and other conservation land beyond Johnson Lane. The Great Works Land Trust has purchased the 114 acre property for preservation as a farm and the funds from the land bank will help them to obtain the state and federal matches needed to complete the land purchase. In return, citizens of the town will have access to this property for recreational purposes, expanding the land area we already can use. There are other land conservation projects in the near future and the remaining \$31000 in the land bank will not be sufficient for the all the upcoming opportunities that will present themselves. Therefore, they are asking that citizens 1) vote to approve the release of the \$40000 for the Goodwin transaction, and 2) work towards replenishing the land bank funds via our town budget process. Robert Fisher moved that the Historical Society send a letter to the Select Board that we support releasing the funds for the project and replenishing the funds for future projects. This was seconded and approved. This letter will also be sent to the Town Manager. Paul Johnson will produce and send the letter.

Because April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Citizens Initiative meeting in the budget process, we have rescheduled our next meeting for April 10<sup>th</sup> so people can attend both meetings.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Correspondence** – A sympathy card was sent to Helen Sullivan on the passing of her daughter Cynthia.

**Membership** – Sylvia Moynahan reported no new members, but reminded visitors to join.

**Programs** – Rosanne Fisher informed us that Jennifer Hunter of the York River Study Committee along with others from that group will be the presenters at the April meeting.

**Collections** – Julie Johnson reported that she had on display that evening some framed photos spanning 1830-1901 of Eliot students that had been gathered for a reunion. There was also a reproduction of a historical map of the river on display.

**Building Committee** – Paul Johnson broke the news that the flagpole at the Schoolhouse which had been loose finally fell during a recent windstorm. It will be reinstalled in the spring.

**Publicity** – Carolyn Bogh thanked Paul Johnson for the photo of the Grange Hall used in the article that appeared in the Weekly Sentinel about the evening's presentation.

**Education** – Jan Cerabona updated us on the school "Stories Project". The next person to speak with the students will be Nancy Cultrera, most likely focusing on her Civil War letters.

**Fundraising** – Cindy Lentz reminded us of the next fundraiser on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Congregational Church, a Taste of Italy lasagna dinner. Members will set up, cook, serve and clean up at this event and all help is welcomed and appreciated. It should be a fun and delicious and profitable few hours on that Saturday afternoon and early evening.

**Grants** – Helen Goransson submitted a grant proposal to the Maine Community Foundation to receive funds to help Build Community through a joint project with the William Fogg Library. This grant would help pay for a temporary curator for us to catch up with collection cataloguing and allow us to display some of it at the Fogg Homestead during the summer months. This person would also be working as a docent at the Fogg Homestead during the summer, with someone from the University

of New Hampshire's Museum Studies program to provide training and advice to members of both organizations. Decisions will be announced no earlier than mid-May.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Paul Johnson announced that Dick Bogh was resigning as one of our Directors. Ernie Bruneau was elected to take his seat on the board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

In memory of Cyndi Sullivan, Denny Lentz made a motion that we donate \$100 to a hospice house and this was seconded by Jack McDonough. It was voted upon and passed. No specific hospice was mentioned but one will receive the donation in her name.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

## **PROGRAM**

Margaret Morse provided a fascinating report on the Grange organization in Eliot. For details, see our March Newsletter, which describes the humble origins of this group in 1902, the building of the Grange Hall just in time for the centennial of the town in 1910 thanks to some of Eliot's most illustrious townspeople, the history and evolution of the group and the building from then until the present, and how it continues to help the community in many ways.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary