

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the meeting - April 10, 2017

President Paul Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were 41 people in attendance. He thanked Ruth and Grant Hirst for providing the refreshments for the evening.

Secretary's Report - The minutes of the March meeting were read and accepted with one correction noted.

Treasurer's Report - Pam Ashley reported for the month ending March 2017. The report was approved as read. The balances were: Savings Account - \$29,347.62, Certificate of Deposit - \$10,889.47, Building Fund Total - \$40,237.09, Checking Account - \$8018.63. Expenditures were for rent, Lasagna Dinner expenses, and electricity. Income came from the Lasagna Dinner, new memberships and bank interest.

Correspondence - Paul Johnson sent a letter to the Town Manager and Select Board from the Historical Society in support of the town's Conservation Commission in its efforts to preserve the town's natural resources and to place on the Town Warrant for June 2017 Town Meeting: 1) To expend \$40,000 from the Town's land bank fund to be used for the Goodwin Farm/Great Works Land Trust Project, and 2) To replenish the Town's land bank fund with \$40,000 to be raised and appropriated and raised by the citizens for the town's future land conservation efforts.

A thank you note was received from Fran and Sally Hartford for two lasagna dinners which we sent to them the night of our Lasagne Dinner fundraiser at the Congregational Church on March 25th. They included a very nice donation for which we will thank them.

Membership - Sylvia Moynahan said we have two new life members: Nancy Cultrera and Jim and Barbara Longstaff.

Programs - Rosanne Fisher reported for Carolyn Bogh. The next meeting of the Society will be at the William Fogg House at the Library along with members of the DAR. They will share with us a program on the history of Mt. Agamenticus. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program from 7:00 - 7:25 p.m.

Collections - Julie Johnson invited everyone to look at some items from the collection which she had on display downstairs.

Roseanne Adams Fischer reported that a lap organ formerly belonging to Moses Gerrish Farmer and collected by Joe and John Frost has been donated to the Society from Joe's

daughter Liz Frost. Also, pages from a scrap book from Eliot was found on Peaks Island in a discarded pile from a rummage sale by a woman who salvaged and donated them to the Society. We also received a book of memoirs by Walter Staples called "Mostly My Maine" put together by his son James. James came to visit and brought a copy for the Society. It is a wonderful collection of his memories of being in Maine and also his service in the Civilian Conservation Corps, his travels to the World's Fair, and his life here on Beech Road. It also includes material on James' grandfather, Victor Staples, a patriot hero and farmer.

Building Committee - Paul Johnson reported he will put up the flagpole from the School House the next day. The clean-up day around the Grange scheduled with the high school students had to be postponed because of the weather. Let Paul know if you are willing to come and help clean-up on a day in the future.

Education - Jan Cerabona summarized the activities of the "Eliot Stories" Project. On April 13th the 3rd graders will meet at the Grange to continue their study of the history of Eliot. Julie Johnson will have a display set up for them. They will then go to Schoolhouse No. 8. Jeanette Paul will tell the children what it was like to go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Nancy Cultrera will talk to them about her grandfather's Civil War letters. Later they will learn about the gundalow, and about the quilt made by Eliot school children in 1976 for the country's bicentennial along with the book of drawings made of the squares the children made. They'll also have a performance. Gardening will also be included in this program. Connie Weeks will talk to the children on this subject.

Old Business - The Lasagna Dinner held on March 25th was a great success. We grossed approximately \$626 and had about \$130 of expenses. The group of volunteers had a fun time serving many different kinds of lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, and brownie sundaes for dessert. Everyone liked the food and seemed to enjoy it.

The Citizens' Initiative meeting on the town budget did not happen as planned because there were not enough people to constitute a quorum when the meeting was called to order, so the meeting became an informational one with no citizens' initiatives allowed to be presented. The budget and other referendum questions will be voted upon in June. We believe we will get the funding requested by the Society in the upcoming proposed town budget.

New Business - We bought a \$200 black and white copier for \$100 which will be kept in the Collection Room.

Ray Faulkner talked about fencing off a section of the cemetery that parallels Maple Ave. because of damage caused by wind blow downs and snow plowing knocking down one of the stones. The last four maples that border the cemetery need to have the stumps ground out to make it look better and easier to maintain. It's difficult to get a lawn mower thru there now.

Zip Zamachi said he and Denny Lentz had talked about placing a stone with a plaque where the Old Town Hall was located across from the Elementary School, mentioning about the plane that crashed there in 1928. Zip will get more information on this, including costs.

Rosanne Fisher introduced our program for the evening, An Update on the York River Study Committee and Survey.

The Chairwoman of this committee introduced the members of the crew who will be conducting archaeological and architectural surveys to document and learn more about important prehistoric and historic archaeological sites as well as historic buildings, landscapes and structures.

About 2000 acres in parts of Eliot and York along the upper York River and around York Pond have been identified as likely containing important above ground as well as below ground historical resources. They will conduct a four-day dig in June in four to eight locations as their first priority. They are hoping to use five or six community volunteers each day.

The information gathered from the surveys will be used by the Study Committee to develop a watershed management plan and to evaluate the eligibility of the York River to be designated among the National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The project findings will be shared with the towns and their historical societies.

The meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly McDonough
(in the absence of the secretary)