

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the Meeting – June 5, 2017

This meeting was held at the Fogg Homestead and the public was invited to a presentation there by members of the Staples family who talked about and read excerpts from the book “Mostly My Maine”. Family members who spoke and read were Jim Staples, his brother Russ, and their sisters Barbara and Rebecca. They shared the memoir of their grandfather, Victor Staples, and illustrations for the book were created by their father, Walter. After growing up in Eliot, Maine, Victor lived a most exciting life and traveled extensively, but the readings for the evening were intended to transport us back in time to those simple days when children attended one-room schoolhouses and people worked hard to provide their families and themselves with the necessities and simple pleasures of life. A complete description of that presentation, well written by Rosanne Fisher, is included in the July 2017 newsletter. Books are available for purchase from Randall Press in Portsmouth.

Following the presentation and refreshments, provided by Toni and Keith Searles and Jeannette Paul, president Paul Johnson called the business portion of the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. He thanked our hosts, the William Fogg Library staff, for making this meeting possible at the Fogg Homestead. We also had the raffle for Doris Grover’s fudge.

Secretary’s Report - The minutes of the May meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer’s Report - Pam Ashley reported for the month ending May 31, 2017. The report was approved as read. The balances were: Savings Account - \$29,352.52 and Certificate of Deposit - \$10,896.75, for a Building Fund Total of \$40,249.27. Checking Account balance was \$7250.20. Expenditures were for rent, annual report filing fees, and electricity. Income of \$6.23 came from bank interest.

Correspondence – We will send a card to Margie and Skip Brown on the passing of her sister.

Programs – Carolyn Bogh reviewed the upcoming program schedule. There is no meeting in July. August is the annual gathering at Dead Duck Inn. She planned to organize a summer visit for interested members to the Old Berwick Historical Society’s latest exhibit. The September program will feature the new book by Patricia Wall, “Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery and Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine”, and Patricia will talk about the history of slavery in our region, the culmination of her several years of research of the subject. In October, Paul Goransson will describe present-day farming operations on his Eliot farm. For November we have scheduled a

reenactment of a war-time medical tent. December is the annual holiday party and show-and-tell.

Collections – Julie Johnson reported that we have received some yearbooks and school pictures from the 1940's from James and Horace Spinney.

Building Committee - Paul Johnson reported that a group of volunteers, including Zip Zamarchi, Denny Lentz and Skip Brown, worked on the grounds of the Grange as requested last month, and he thanked them.

Publicity – During our June yard sale we made sure to invite people to come to our meetings and see the No. 8 Schoolhouse.

Education - Jan Cerabona and others reported on the culmination of the Stories Project which included a visit to the Elementary School and viewing of the mural created by the students. This was to take place at 6 p.m. on June 12th. The students wrote journals, drew sketches, and the best work was included in the mural, which is mounted on a brick wall but designed to be portable. The school presentation is an exhibit and performance by the students. The No. 8 Schoolhouse will be open to the public from 5:00-5:45, and invitations were going out about this event.

Grants – Our grant proposal to the Building Communities organization was not funded. Other more worthy projects were selected and they received too many proposals to fund them all.

Fundraisers – Cindy Lentz thanked all those who helped with the successful yard sale. Baked goods alone accounted for \$147.50 of the \$794 that was raised that day. She also thanked Lydia Goodwin for the donuts.

Old Business – Paul Johnson announced a clean-up of the Schoolhouse on June 12th, in preparation of the Stories Project visitors who might stop in.

New Business – Our membership to the Great Works Regional Land Trust has expired. We have given \$100 in the past for this. Jack McDonough made a motion to renew at this same level. This was seconded and approved.

A celebration of the life of Cynthia Sullivan was planned for June 17th at 12:30 at the home of Helen Sullivan. Cyndi touched so many lives and this would be an opportunity to honor and remember her.

Cindy Lentz announced that we have stopped our group's involvement in End 68 Hours of Hunger, although she encouraged individuals to volunteer and help this worthy cause if they wished. We thanked Cindy for all her hard work these past years keeping us organized around this program.

Carolyn Bogh made a motion to give Doris Grover a lifetime membership to the Eliot Historical Society, in recognition of her support in many ways, but especially her monthly fudge donations which has been a wonderful fundraiser. This was seconded and approved. A thank you message will be sent to her with that membership notification.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Goransson, Secretary