

## **ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the Meeting – November 6, 2017**

President Paul Johnson called the business portion of the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

**Treasurer's Report** - Pam Ashley reported for the month of October, 2017. The report was approved as read. The balances as of end-month were: Savings Account - \$29,364.81 and Certificate of Deposit - \$10,915.03, for a Building Fund total of \$40,279.84. Checking Account balance was \$7,582.14. Expenditures were for rents, an electrical cord, and electricity. Income came from bank interest of \$6.16 and fundraising from our fudge raffles, yard sale and Eliot Festival Day, totaling \$223.35.

**Programs** – Carolyn Bogh reminded us the December meeting is the annual holiday party and show and tell and she encouraged members to bring something old and/or interesting to share.

**Building Committee** - Paul Johnson thanked Denny Lentz, Skip Brown, Ernie Bruneau and Zip Zamarchi for working on the building and grounds with him.

**Fundraisers** – Cindy Lentz reported that the next fundraisers include the holiday fair at Marshwood High School in December, the ongoing raffle of the hooked rug and some artwork, and Doris Grover's fudge raffle. She encouraged people to sign up to bake or make things for the fair, and to provide coverage at the table at the polls to sell raffle tickets. Her rug hooking teacher donated the hooked rug, and Doris Grover donated 3 batches of fudge this time for that raffle. The annual luncheon will take place tentatively on December 8<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to join the group that will be going.

**Nominations Committee** - Sylvia Moynahan reported that the committee, consisting of herself, Carol Zamarchi and Bobbi Beavers, has been working on preparing a slate of officers and directors to vote on at the December meeting. It appears that all current officers are willing to remain and we are in need of one new director as one will be stepping off. She welcomes any who wish to serve in any of the positions.

**Old Business** – A sign-up sheet for next year's refreshments assignments was passed around. Paul Johnson reminded members that there will be a table at the polls all day and encouraged people to stop by.

**New Business** – The three display cases donated by another non-profit, the Woodman Institute, were accepted by us. Ernie Bruneau and Zip Zamarchi completed the restoration of two of these. The last one is in progress. These could be seen downstairs. Zip Zamarchi moved that we donate \$75 to the Woodman Institute. This was seconded by Cindy Lentz and the members approved this donation.

Paul Johnson noted that there are new outside lights and he thanked Bob Fisher for that work.

Paul also announced that there was no heat at the Grange because the boiler failed and was removed. A propane-fired Rinaï heater has been installed downstairs and one will be placed in the meeting room soon. We might need to buy a fan to get the heat from the Rinaï unit to the collection. We will evaluate further what we need to do to protect the collection.

Bobbi Beavers talked about the Old Berwick Historical Society's recent history games and thanked Bob and Rosanne Fisher for their participation with that. It was a good time and they will do it again in a couple of years.

We thanked Jack and Polly McDonough for the evening's refreshments.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

### Program

Walter, Barbara and Edward Hanson were in full military gear for the reenactment of a Vietnam-era medical N.A.S.H. or Navy Active Support Hospital. Over the years, Walter has collected instruments and accessories for this. He is the son of a medical corpsman who served in World War II and the Korean War and dedicated this reenactment to him. Barbara presented herself as a Red Cross nurse and Edward was an MP, while Walter portrayed himself as a surgeon. The items they showed us dated back to World War II and the Korean War, since these were the supplies used in Vietnam, too. We saw a 1965 blood pressure cuff, WWII cat gut sutures still soaking in alcohol, a canned plaster of Paris cast, Q-tips, liquid used to reactivate freeze-dried plasma, soap sutures, and a fetal stethoscope from the 1960's. Corpsmen and medics were embedded with the soldiers and were available to help civilians, too. The grape leaf and silver acorn worn on the uniform identified medical personnel. Barbara, portraying a member of the American Red Cross, explained that they were present at military bases and traveled in jeeps to outlying areas. They provided moral support, brought games and things that reminded soldiers of home. They helped with letter-writing, too. This service started in February 1962 and

the last volunteer left in March 1973. These were the women who served in Vietnam and during the entire time only 5 perished in country, the last one during the “baby lift” for orphans. 1100 women served. Edward, in his role as a Marine MP, explained that he had two jobs: soldier and police officer. MP’s went out on patrols and ensured that law and order was maintained and military code was followed by the soldiers. He showed us the contents of his very full field packs including food rations, weapons, gas mask, helmet, and flack jacket to protect him from shrapnel. All this would have weighed 40-60 pounds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Goransson, Secretary