

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the Meeting - February 5, 2018

President Paul Johnson welcomed members and guests at approximately 7 p.m. and began the meeting by announcing that the grant from the Fabulous Find in Kittery amounted to \$4288.69 for the Eliot Historical Society along with two other non-profit organizations receiving the same amount. This is a very welcome grant for the organization and will be used to help our Building Fund and collections and other work we do. Corresponding Secretary, Helen Sullivan, will write a letter of thanks to the Fabulous Find for this fine grant. We will be eligible to reapply for this same grant after a period of two years.

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

Treasurer's Report - Pam Ashley provided the January 2018 financial report, which showed a Building Fund total of \$40,298.25 from the savings account and CD, and a checking account balance of \$10,587.72. Income came from book sales, fudge raffle, Town of Eliot appropriations and a donation from Vertex Foundation. Expenses were for rent and electricity. The report was approved as presented and is attached.

Correspondence - Helen Sullivan said there had been no correspondence. She thanked us for the cards and well wishes she received while she was recuperating. She also told us Margie Brown was having a birthday. Best wishes were given to Margie from the Society members.

Membership - Sylvia Moynahan reported there was nothing new to report, but reminded everyone that dues are due at this time: \$10 for single membership, \$15 for family membership. She circulated a list of members asking them to update their current phone numbers and email addresses.

Programs - Eric Christian will speak to us about "Bay Lands of the Piscataqua" for the March program. He told us to listen carefully because there will be a test at the end. Our April program will be an open meeting to concentrate on fundraising ideas and how to proceed into the future. Carolyn Bogh said there is a group of eight very dedicated women who have worked hard, but it's time for all of us to come forward with new ideas and man and woman power. So members were urged to make a list of ideas and bring them to the April meeting.

Collections - Paul Johnson gave this report on behalf of Julie Johnson. Ronald Grammont, who lives on Bayberry Drive, used to live on Mast Cove Road and donated a pamphlet on

the Mast Cove Camp. Around 1924 Dr. and Mrs. Stanwood Cobb of the Chevy Chase Country School in Chevy Chase, Maryland founded this summer camp on the Piscataqua River in Eliot. Its goal was to provide a healthy climate for the children from their school located in the Washington, DC. area. This pamphlet says the founders were particularly interested in gifted children.

The Kittery Historical Society gave us some postcards of Eliot, which will be added to our collection. Also, artifacts from the York River Study were given to us from the Town Manager. Julie has set up a display of these in our new display cases.

Publicity - Carolyn Bogh reported that the Calendar of Events for Eliot did not publish the notice of this February meeting. But notice of the meeting did reach one of the guests at the meeting. He introduced himself as Don Kessler who grew up on Brixham Road, a 1949 graduate of Eliot High School who then went on to UNH, and then military service. This was the first time he had been back in the Grange building since 1948 when he was in a junior class play. He remembered dances at the Grange, with girls on one side, boys on the other. He thanked Rosanne Adams for sharing with the public memories and the history of Eliot in the 1930's. He has also been a contributor to the website, sharing his memories of Eliot.

Education - Jan Cerabona noted that the South Berwick Historical Society does a lot with the schools there and she felt that Eliot should do more and that Eliot teachers deserve more recognition for what they do, such as the project with the 2nd graders on Eliot history last year. She suggested sending the Superintendent of Schools our newsletters.

Fundraising - Cindy Lentz said the committee is tired of working hard and not showing a large enough profit for the amount of work involved. At our April meeting the committee would like to hear from the membership their thoughts on how much money they think the Society should be raising, where improvements could be made, whether we should have one large fundraiser or two, and whether we should drop the smaller fundraisers. This committee plays a major role in public relations for the Society, providing public visibility and letting the community know we exist. The next fundraiser will be the lasagna dinner on March 24th at the Congregational Church. A sign-up sheet was passed around for lasagna and brownie makers. Donations of money are also accepted. The men have volunteered to serve the tables again this year.

Old Business - Paul Johnson thanked Helen Goransson for applying for the Fabulous Find Grant and Rosanne Adams for all the publicity she provided to get the word out. Polly McDonough suggested a letter of thanks be written to the Fabulous Find for this award, and, as noted earlier in these notes, Helen Sullivan will follow up on that.

Historical plaques around town will be discussed at the next meeting.

Exhibition Committee - Polly McDonough reported that she had contacted the local Postmaster regarding the small display case in the Post Office lobby to be used to display something of interest from our collections. Her response was very positive and she gave her permission. The key to the case needs to be found or the lock changed. As soon as that is done we will have access to it. We checked out the Town Hall as a candidate for our displays, but it has no space available. Carolyn Bogh has written to Mary Nash, Superintendent of MSAD 35, for permission to contact the principals of the elementary and high schools regarding exhibitions space. Carolyn also spoke with Lydia Goodwin at the Fogg Library, who suggested the Fogg Homestead as a possibility. The Library is hoping to use the Fogg house a lot more. The problem is money. Lydia is willing but will have to get back to us. Ruth Drake will talk to the bank manager at the Kennebunk Savings Bank regarding any possibilities there. Julie Johnson will handle the collection part of any exhibit and Rosanne Adams is willing to help write up historical background information for articles to be displayed. Paul Johnson said Ernie Bruneau is making a display case for us to use at some point.

New Business - Paul reported there is a conflict for the Society's April 2nd meeting with the Special Town Meeting that evening. A motion was made and passed to move our April meeting to April 9th. The Grange will be notified by Denny Lentz. Paul Johnson's meeting with the Town Manager will be discussed at the April 9th meeting. Jack McDonough suggested the Town Manager be invited to do a program for the Society. Carolyn Bogh noted the suggestion.

Paul Johnson made a motion that the Society buy the paper products and maintain an inventory so that the people doing refreshments don't have to worry about that. Julie and Paul volunteered to oversee the inventory. This is an expense the Society should handle. The motion passed. Paul made a second motion to pay the people who do the refreshments \$20. It doesn't matter if it is one or two or three people. Cindy Lentz suggested we wait until the April meeting to vote on this.

Bobby Beavers announced that the Old Berwick Historical Society Counting House Museum is now going to be open the 4th Saturday in February, March and April for their "Forgotten Frontiers" exhibit covering the Piscataqua region during the 1600's. She also told us they are having their big fundraising colonial dinner the same night as our lasagna dinner. Their fee is \$75 per person.

Paul thanked Helen Sullivan, Jan Cerabona and Nancy Cultrera for the refreshments.

Program

Carolyn Bogh introduced Dominique Metreud, speaker for the evening's program, "A History of the Trolley Station at Green Acre Baha'i Center". In 1900 the Atlantic Shore Line (ASL) began running trolley service connecting coastal towns, making them accessible to visitors as well as laborers building coastal resorts. Kittery and Eliot greatly benefited from this service. In 1903 the Green Acre station trolley stop (or waiting room) was commissioned and built by the ASL. In just a few years time this was all replaced by the automobile. By 1921 the trolley stop was removed, tracks were decommissioned and the rails fell into disrepair. The Green Acre Station building was moved to Rosemary Junction Station to replace the one that had burned. It was used for several more years. Eventually it ended up on an adjoining property for 92 years. It was not properly balanced, with one corner in the dirt. With Roseanne Adams' help, the owner of Rosemary Cottage agreed to let the trolley station go back to its original home at Green Acre.

In the spring of 2016, Dominique and a co-worker, David Walters, made preparations to move the building. Extreme care was taken not to damage the building in any way and it was successfully moved. Then the restoration began using as much of the original lumber and boards as possible. The roof was stripped of its worn shingles and replaced with cedar shingles, keeping the original lines. Twelve of the window frames were intact and were stripped, repaired, preserved, primed and painted. The original front door was restored with new beveled glass. New mahogany boards were used for decking and a new roof cap was fashioned based on an old photograph of the original. This is one of the few trolley waiting rooms still in existence. We have Dominique and David to thank for this wonderful restoration work and preserving a piece of Eliot and Maine history. Dominique invited us to come sit on the little porch and enjoy it in the warmer weather

Respectfully submitted,
Polly McDonough