

## **ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Minutes of the Meeting – April 9, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. President Paul Johnson noted that once again Doris Grover has donated fudge for the raffle to support our fundraising efforts. He also congratulated Rosanne Adams who has received the 2018 Fabyan Drake Good Citizens Award from the Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 of the American Legion.

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the March meeting were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Pam Ashley read the financial report as of March 31, 2018 which was approved. As of end-March the Building Fund total was \$40,309.97 and the checking account balance was \$14,360.04. Income came from bank interest, the fudge raffle and sale of maps. Expenses were for rent, electricity, supplies, and the annual IRS filing fee.

**Correspondence** - Helen Sullivan has sent thank you notes to all the generous donors of the lasagna dinner.

**Membership** - Sylvia Moynahan provided some membership data. According to her records, there are 46 active members, of which 41 are life members and the rest pay annually. 21 life members do not attend meetings regularly. 4 of the annual members have not paid yet.

**Programs** – Carolyn Bogh announced that the May meeting will feature Dana Lee, Eliot's Town Manager. The June meeting will focus on weddings, so members are asked to bring wedding pictures and talk about them. By fall, we expect to have a list of upcoming fascinating speakers.

**Collections** – Julie Johnson reported that we have received from Rosanne a binder of all the newsletters she created. The meeting minutes are also kept for our archives.

**Fundraising** – Cindy Lentz reported that the lasagna dinner was very successful, and we netted \$623. Everyone helped in some way and she thanked the group for that and hopes we can do this event annually, as it is enjoyed by all. Cindy is stepping down from her leadership role on this committee and the group thanked her for all her hard work and energy and enthusiasm with our fundraising efforts.

**Education** - Jan Cerabona summarized the plans that are in place. The No. 8 Schoolhouse was going to welcome 3 second grade classes so only one session with approximately 60 students was planned for April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. After the opening of the

schoolhouse, we would re-open the building on April 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> for families and parents to visit. Jan offered to be there to monitor that activity. On April 30<sup>th</sup> or May 1<sup>st</sup> they hoped to go to the Grange where there would be 3 learning stations for 20 students per class, each one taking 15-20 minutes. One group station would be downstairs with Julie Johnson to see some of the collection, one station would be upstairs learning about some of our town's history, and a third station would be outside to learn about the Grange. The entire program would take about 1 and ½ hours. There will also be exhibits at the school. Jan also reported that they hope to start the "Did you know...?" of historical facts at the gym. Teachers of "expert groups" will cover such topics as Eliot's brickyards, Lanier's Camp, and transportation. On May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the presentation of the students' program. Jan also pointed out that in the past we had a coloring book of historical illustrations of Eliot and she would like to see that publication resurrected sometime. She also relayed the message from the art teacher that they would like to have the annual art exhibit at the Grange. Jan was told to speak with Margaret Morse about this.

**Old Business** - Paul Johnson reiterated that the lasagna dinner was profitable, fun and added to the Historical Society's exposure in the town.

Paul also noted that despite our request for approximately \$3300, the budget committee only recommended \$2000 this coming year for the EHS.

Zip Zamarchi has given us the manufacturing information for the historical plaques we wish to display around town.

The postmaster still has not provided the key to the display case in the Post Office.

The board met on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with President Paul and Collections chair Julie Johnson to discuss the proposal to store the archives of the Shapleigh family. After consulting a lawyer, we were advised that we need permission to sublease the storage area. We presently have no lease. Until this is resolved, we cannot move forward. The board also needs to resolve the renewal of our insurance policies. Rosanne suggested writing up our lease and presenting it to the Grange for their approval. She recalled that she and Robert Fisher had written one up which we need to locate. This was signed by all parties, as far as she can recall. We need to see if it gives us the ability to sublease. The board and the ad hoc committee, consisting of Jack McDonough and Denny Lentz, are receptive to the idea of storage the Shapleigh archives for a fee.

**New Business** – Mike Zamarchi will be bringing a group of high school students armed with rakes and shovels to clean up the grounds around the Grange on April 10<sup>th</sup> for an hour and a half as their community service day activity.

Paul Johnson thanked Ruth and Grant Hirst for the evening's refreshments.

### **Program**

The program was a group discussion around the Eliot Historical Society's fundraising goals and strategies.

Cindy Lentz summarized some of the observations of the fundraising group that has been active these past years. Among them, 1) Eliot Festival Day is not worth the time and expense anymore, 2) raffles work very well, especially when we can reach the community at the polls and holiday bazaar, 3) we would prefer having just a small number of major fundraisers. Other suggestions from the floor included hooking up with restaurants that offer a percentage of the profits for the evening going back to the organization, choosing a night of theater at the Hackmatack Playhouse with a similar opportunity to share in the income for the evening and also sell our baked goods there, attracting younger members to the Historical Society especially when the history unit is going on at school, opening up the No. 8 Schoolhouse more often and putting out a donations jar, having a Savers campaign where we receive payment based on the weight of items dropped off and accepted, once or twice a year bringing in an excellent speaker for a well-publicized event and requesting donations for that evening, continuing with our raffles of fudge and other desirable prizes, and applying for another Fabulous Find grant as soon as allowed. There was a bit of a debate about the need to pay for good speakers. Discussion on this was tabled for another time. We would like the treasurer to tell us what we should expect to spend during our fiscal year so we can know how much we need to raise beyond what the town contributes to our budget.

We need to keep the fundraising ideas coming and we appreciate all the suggestions we received.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Goransson