

## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. The Business part of the meeting followed the evening's program. The program started at 7pm and the Business meeting started at approximately 8:45pm and is summarized first in these minutes below.

Paul Johnson opened the business portion of the meeting with a request for the Secretary's report.

**Secretary's report** - Tracey Graffam read the minutes of the January meeting which were accepted with corrections provided.

**Fund Raising:** Lasagna dinner – March 23, 4:30-6:30pm. All the information will be sent out next month.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pam Ashley read the December financial report and it was approved. As of Jan. 31st, the Savings Account opening balance was \$29,399.11 with interest earned of \$2.50 and has a finished balance of \$29,401.61. The CD had an opening balance of \$10,966.09 with interest earned of \$3.73 and an ending balance of \$10,969.82. The Building fund has a balance of \$40,371.43. The checking account had a beginning balance of \$14,630.62 with income totaling of \$375.43 coming from bank interest, memberships, fudge raffle, flag sales, and donations and expenses for Rent & Storage of \$150 and CMP for \$36.57 with an ending balance of \$15,006.05.

### Committee updates:

Shannon provided an update on the School House: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be at the Grange and the William Fogg Library and William Fogg House all day. Looking for panel for experience stories from 1-school house and schools in Eliot (with some names in mind) looking for stories that are passed down through families. There will be artifacts downstairs of Grange. Tours of Fogg House. Quilt at Congregational Church. One room school house will be open on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with visitors from all four classrooms visiting one class at a time. On May 9<sup>th</sup> the presentation will be at 6pm at night with items on display. Looking for stories and will include the story on plane crashed into building. Will also be connecting with Lidia with special program with Maine Historical Society and Humanities regarding info on 2020. She will be attending and will contact Lidia.

**Membership** – Sylvia Moynahan confirms a new life member has been received - Kelly for \$50.

**Old Business:** Update was provided on Carol Zumarchi, confirming that she did go back to the hospital due to seizures and she was in ICU for a couple days, returning home Tuesday and seems to be doing well now.

Paul confirmed that the Grange Capacity – in the upstairs where we meet has a capacity approved by 100 People. Shouldn't be a problem. He is working on the downstairs – still waiting to hear about capacity.

Roseanne went to the budget meeting on Cemetery SW on behalf of Paul. Budget Meeting went well, not too many questions.

Keith confirmed that the Flag Presentation for Jewels will be set up in the next few weeks in the afternoon. He will contact Rosanne and Paul to schedule.

**New business:** New refreshment schedule has been put out and thank you to Nancy, Jan and Hellen who have volunteered for November.

**Program:** Carolyn confirmed that due to the change in the request that the dedicated program for Jeanette be moved from March to June. Carolyn is work with someone who offered to do a program for March. She will confirm and communicate in the paper once confirmed. Location will not be in church but will confirm.

Paul followed up on the June program for Jeanette and requested someone to volunteer to get a plaque in place for the event. Pam confirmed she will have this ready for June.

Paul confirmed no further business, the motioned was made to adjourn and approved at 9:15pm.

## **Program**

The Eliot Historical Society welcomed the speaker for the evening - Michael Ward – the author of “A Colored Man in Exeter”. Michael started the evening sharing the background on how the book came to be and how his father, Harold E. Ward, who passed at the age of 94 had requested that he write down his family history. His father wanted his grandchildren and great grandchildren to know from whence they came.

Michael shared the stories of how his family came to Lee, NH from Brooklyn, NY and spoke of their early days living through the cold New England winters in their 9-room home with no insulation and little knowledge of the New England ways of life. He shared their successes and the challenges faced and how they eventually had succeeded in planting a garden large enough not only to feed his family but also provided significant supplies to the local food pantry.

Michael wrapped up his readings about his family and in particular his father’s journey, who’s story is now in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He also provided his thoughts and feelings on the importance of fight & defeating racism and the dangers of stereotyping. Michael’s stories were very well received and the evening was enjoyed by all.

At 7:45pm, the program was followed by an intermission, where attendees could purchase autographed copies of Michael’s books and share in the desserts and drinks provided.