

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – January 6, 2020

Paul Johnson called the meeting to order at 7pm. Paul welcomed all to the meeting and kicked off the meeting, announcing the evening's raffle would include 2 sets of homemade fudge and in addition a bar of handcrafted soap. Thank you to Doris Grover for the fudge and to Tracey for the Soap. Paul announced that the evening would start with the refreshments and would then be followed the evening's program. In support of the celebration of Maine's Bicentennial, Rosanne would lead the program with trivia questions on the history of Maine, government and the town of Eliot. Attendees are invited to add their name to the Trivia Sheet each month and numbers with names will be drawn and those who answers the questions correctly will win a prize. Groups can play together. After the trivia questions, a movie and visual journey over Maine will be presented, titled "High on the Wings of an Eagle".

After refreshments were served, three names were selected for the raffle and the program commenced. Various numbers and names were selected, and trivia questions were asked. The questions included, "what was the nickname for the Dover, York and Eliot Trolley Car" – the Answer was" _____", a second trivia question was asked: "What drew thousands of tourists up from NY to Maine in the summer at the turn of the century"? The answer was "To get away from the heat and disease". All participants received an award for answering correctly and the movie commenced.

The movie journeyed from Kittery, Maine's first incorporated town all the way long the coast to the furthest known location and most easterly location for the US – known as the Downeast. The movie also explored the major river ways of Maine.

The program portion of the meeting came to an end at 8:15pm. All enjoyed the movie and Paul thanked Rosanne for leading the evening's program.

Business Report

Paul kicked off the Business portion of the meeting and confirmed that there is a draft referendum on the back table that was asked to be shared for attendees to review. It is regarding the CMP plans to build a new corridor and is to be put forward for to the people of Maine to be considered.

Officers Report

Secretary Report: Tracey Graffam read the minutes of the December meeting which were accepted and approved with one correction.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Ashley presented the treasurer's report which was accepted with no corrections.

Committee Updates

Correspondence: Nothing to report

Membership: Sylvia confirmed that as the start of the new year, dues for the coming year are dues are \$10. The question was asked – how many members are there presently? Sylvia reviewed the numbers during the meeting and confirmed there are approximately 34 Active members and between 50 to 55 for life members.

Programs: Rosanne confirmed that the following month's program will be presented by noted author and Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, Tammi Truax, who will share her research on "Ona Judge Staines: Her life before and after her 1796 escape to NH". The slave of President and Martha Washington who escaped and made her way to Portsmouth and later Greenland, NH. It was also shared the updates to the Bicentennial program which include on March 14th – Community Bean Supper. In April and May, there will be a Birthday Party and Parade. The Committee recommends that EHS should consider how they might want to participate. The committee is also working to submit another grant to the committee to support events for the Bicentennial.

Collections: Rosanne confirmed that she has brought in a number of items to be added to the collection which includes a pictures of Joe Frost and family, also includes a publication on history of Maine.

Building: Nothing to report

PR/Publicity: Rosanne confirmed that the schedule for the upcoming programs have been submitted to the Sentinel. Paul also confirmed that they met with representatives of Kennebunk Savings Bank and shared with them an early view of the painting that is to be restored of the Nightingale. Ester Morin was also present and was the recognized for her efforts as the one who commissioned the restoration. It was the first time Ester had seen the painting since it was presented to the Eliot Historical Society. Paul shared the story of how the painting came to be. The Mural is 14 feet long and was painted in the home of Ester Morin. After the home was sold, the new owners who bought the home, offered it to the Historical Society. EHS accepted it and worked to raise funds donated by Kennebunk Savings Bank to have it restored. The mural is scheduled to be hung up at the Eliot Elementary School.

Fund Raising: Last month the committee hosted a nice lady's luncheon at Roberts restaurant. Six were in attendance. The committee is looking for additional members to join the Fundraiser Committee. Jan is talking with various restaurants who donate % of dinner sales to non-profits in the area. Discussions are also scheduled with the Seacoast Repertory Theater– to be a community partners – where tickets are donated to help raise funds for non-profits. Also plans to schedule another Antique Appraisal to be scheduled. The committee decided not to host the annual lasagna dinner, due to limited manpower. The committee is open to additional suggestions for fundraising.

Education: Jan shared that while she was changing the societies' display at the elementary school, that kids had a chance to watch the new items that were added. Kid's had fun asking

questions and checking what new was coming in. The new items included a special picture that included Jeanette in it of the restored Fire Department. This included other family members including Dot. The kids were able to make connections between the family which is great.

Grants: Per noted previously, the grant from Kennebunk Savings Bank has been received to support the restoration and installation of the Mural at the Eliot Elementary School.

2019 Nomination Committee: No updates.

Old Business:

The 2019 Treasurer's Annual Report for the period of 12/1/18 through 11/30/19. The report is made available to review. Paul confirmed that monthly refreshments schedule has been fully covered and thanked all for filling in the open spots. Julie asked if anyone had heard if the Downeast Magazine confirmed if any of the submitted pictures from Eliot had been selected for their publication / broadcast on the Maine Program of 107? It appeared that no pictures had been selected that were submitted.

New Business

As required, an auditor needs to be identified to review the Annual Treasurer's Report. Many thanks to Tony Searles who has accepted the role.

Tracey will be away for the February meeting and we are in need of someone to fill in.

A big thank you goes out to Julie for refreshments tonight... Many Thanks.

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

1/6/20