

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – June 3rd, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The business part of the meeting followed the evenings program but is summarized first in these minutes. Tonight's Fudge Raffle was announced @ \$1/raffle – with two names to drawn during refreshments. Big Thanks to Doris Grover for donating the fudge.

Officers Report

Paul reminded the group to vote on June 11th with elections and budget up for approval – an important day for voting in the town of Eliot.

Secretary Report: Tracey Graffam read the minutes of the May meeting which were accepted and approved with one correction – regarding the Outhouse Float Race that took place during the 150th anniversary town celebration. For 2020, there is a plan to have a similar outhouse float race. It was asked what an "Outhouse Race" is. The requirements are that the float shall have a door and is on wheels; however, no bikes or wagons are permitted. Several people are thinking up ideas. All are encouraged to get involved.

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

Committee Updates

Correspondence: Helen Sullivan confirmed she has sent out a card to Ruth Drake who is having surgery tomorrow.

Membership: Nothing to report

Programs: Carolyn Bogh confirmed she is working on calendar for September. In October Russ Staples who presented on his Odyssey to Mount Everest has also offered to present with his brother Jim on their father, Walter Staple and his book "Mostly My Maine". In November, a presentation will be given on the restoration of old barn. In August we will be hosting the annual cookout down at Boat Basin. John Richardson, a member of EHS, who has been interested in the Military since he was in High School, would like to share his collection which is kept at the library. Jan Cerabona confirmed that as part of the planning for the Bicentennial next year, the Book Club is planning to read "Mostly My Maine" over the winter and will do a tour in the Spring. Jan wondered if we could have Russ and Jim join us later in the fall to support the Book Club schedule. However, after discussion all agreed that the schedule for their presentation would remain in October and would be the kick-off the events through the year. In addition, Keith Searles recommended a discussion on climate change with a presentation on the topic by a gentleman who is connected with the York River environment study. This would be considered for a possible September program.

Collections: Nothing to report

Building: Paul Johnson shared that mowing is scheduled for Wed morning at 9am. Anyone available to assist is requested to come down.

PR/Publicity: Nothing to report

Fund Raising: Nothing to report

Education: Jan Cerabona shared that the students program presented the murals. The 2nd graders created note cards about the schoolhouse. The past weekend was the 1st weekend opened. A visitor stopped in and presented an old inkwell that fit the desks. His granddaughter will be in 2nd grade. A new family visited who bought a house by Bai hai school. She works with Strawberry Bank and they discussed some possible collaborations. As part of the planning for the Bicentennial a visit was made to UMaine in Orono. They had a wonderful time – where they set up table display on Eliot’s plans for the event. There is a lot of interest from all different groups through community calendar. Jan shared that the 2nd grade staff do an amazing job sharing with kids and making videos. She recommended an event as a program “do you know as much as a 2nd grader about Eliot History” – it’s amazing what you learn. There is a floor map that depicts where the old schoolhouses were. The kids can see which old schoolhouse they would attend based on where they live. Makes for a great opportunity to share with family and those present.

Grants: Nothing to Report

2019 Nomination Committee: Nothing to Report

Old Business

Paul Johnson and Don and Roseanne Webber presented Trolley Stop Model that Don made to Robert Shapiro of the Bahai School at Green Acre. He was very thankful and happy to have it.

Paul confirmed that a proposal was submitted to the Trustees of the Grange Hall for a new Shed. They are very appreciated of the work provided by those from the Eliot Historical Society and for the mowing of the grass for the past year at no cost. In return, they have offered to fund the new shed.

State Rep Michelle Meyers has gracefully provided us with both a State and US Flag for the School house. Paul will send a thank you note.

New Business

June 15th – Celebrating the life of Jeanne Paul and her work at the School House.

June 11th – Don’t forget to Vote on June 11th

No meeting in July

On the 1st Monday in August, August 5th, the Eliot Historical Society will put on the annual cookout. The format will include the Fire Pit going and all to bring their own main course, a meat and another dish to share with everyone. It will be a Potluck, sides and desserts etc.. Paul confirmed that they will need to reserve the pavilion and ensure its not being

repaired during this time. He will confirm. The event starts at 5pm and all are reminded to bring their own paper goods, drinks etc..

A big thank you to Toni and Keith Searles and Tracey Graffam for providing the evening's refreshments.

Program

Paul introduced Cindy Lentz who would lead tonight's exciting program. Cindy shared that tonight is dedicated to Jeannette Paul who was a dear and wonderful person. Cindy asked those present who would like to share a story about Jeanette come forward and share with the group. As a follow up to the evening's event, on Saturday, June 15th at 11am at the School House there will be another opportunity to honor the Jeanette's memory and the plaque would be presented to Jeanette's family. All are encouraged to come.

To start of the evening, a movie was presented: In Memory Jeannette Spinney Paul 1923-2018 - No. 8 Schoolhouse Stories

After watching the movie, a number of attendees came forward and shared their favorite memories of Jeanette and some stories of their time together. The stories included a favorite memory Paul had of Jeanette and the evening at the EHS for Show and Tell where she shared her excitement in finding a pair of lost shoes when she was looking for an item for the Show and Tell evening, she had lost the shoes some 70 years ago and was so excited she lifted her leg right up in the air to show them off to the group! Jan shared that because of Jeanette, all the 2nd graders (about 80 students) each year watch the video of Jeannette in the schoolhouse and write their journal entries on what they learned. The children are so attentive and love the video of Jeanette. She so loved the kids and teaching them about the schoolhouse. A number of stories were shared throughout the evening including the following:

- Jeannette has preserved letters, ration cards, and her and her husband's experience during WWII. How her husband was rejected because of his teeth so he had all his teeth pulled and was given false teeth so he could go to war.
- Jeannette's ability to remember things. She was on the committee of collectives. She would name every person in the picture and a story about them. Her recall was amazing.
- Judy shared her story which took place in 2010 at the 200 year anniversary, when she was asked to be the marshal of the parade and how Jeanette helped make her the gown to wear and find a hat that looked like the fashion of the day. Her Son built the framework for car and Jeannette sat with her on it. Jeanette's daughter was very nervous, but this did not stop Jeanette, she did just fine and she remember her climbing out and racing up the side ladder to the stand – she just kept on going.
- Jeannette and her poem writing on about anything and everything. She has a collection of her poems. Their Wed mornings at Dunkin Donuts. Jeanette's Poems came from her heart. Just listen to Jeannette and Dot. She knew everything about.
- Joanne and her fond memories of going through the Archives with Jeanette and sharing "The sickness" going through all the old clothes. And how also about the letters Jeanette would

receive from her husband during the war and how through a code they created, she would know where he was based on what he wrote. These letters are shared in the archives.

- Memories of Jeannette & Dot and hearing their stories. Jeanette was the most welcoming person he ever met.
- Margaret shared that Jeanette loved the church and the children of the church. The kids loved her. She loved sharing stories and genealogy information. The town lost a large part of the history when she passed.
- Remembering back when the EHS acquired the schoolhouse and the establishment of the "Friends of the School House". As part of the restoration, they visited another old schoolhouse in Kennebunkport and brought back furniture. If it weren't for her, the partnership with the school would not have happened. She was the one who took hold of it and got it done.

After sharing the stories, Jeanette's daughter offered her thanks on behalf of her mom, herself and her family. It was a wonderful evening shared by all.

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

6/3/19