

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – October 7, 2019

Paul Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Paul confirmed the schedule for the evening, with the Program to be followed by refreshments and then the Business Meeting. Every month we have a fudge raffle. Doris Grover donates the fudge every month – 2 winners will be picked at the end of the evening. EHS is non-profit and donations are always welcome.

Officers Report

Secretary Report: Tracey Graffam read the minutes of the June 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: None

Membership: None

Programs: Carolyn Bough encouraged all to come next month to see the program which will be a presentation by a member, Paul Goransson, who will present on the restoration of the historic barn that both he and his wife, Hellen, completed.

Collections: Nothing to report

Building: Nothing to report

PR/Publicity: Nothing to report

Fund Raising:

Education: Jan confirmed school is now closed for the season and will be working on ways to increase publicity for the next season. She is also working on the coordination with the 2nd grade programs for spring. The Bicentennial was kicked off with Eliot Festival Days.

Grants: Nothing to report.

2019 Nomination Committee: No updates.

Old Business

For the Bicentennial update – Jan confirmed the brochure is out and will update as new events are scheduled. In March there will be a celebration of the official day followed by the parade. There will be various activities leading up to the event. Roseanne also shared that Jan organized the Fabian Drake awards and winner and is recommending that the EHS participate next year. Jan confirmed that the display case is at elementary school where they will honor Dot Manson who is the oldest resident in Eliot. She will be the honorary guest and will be the honor holder of the Boston Case. The event will take place on with music on Nov. 8th Public is welcome. This is to be a surprise and all are asked to keep this a secret.

Eliot Festival Booth, Julie shared that the booth and school were both open. There was a lot more people participating. Some great pictures have been posted to the Eliot website – Eliot Celebrates Maine Bicentennial & the Eliot Festival Facebook Page. At the Booth, a number of people stopped by, with much interest in the local cemeteries. A question was asked as to whether the school is still helping out with volunteer day. Yes, there are plans to also work with the High school to encourage community as a whole.

New Business

For the Election Day the fundraising committee is planning to have a raffle. The committee met at Sofia's house – with four in attendance @ Sofia's house- Helen, Sofia, Margie, Julie. The committee is planning to have exposure with the Election/ Raffle 10-6pm. For the raffle – we will be offering a stoneware cookie jar, Eliot Flag, Twin Size Afghan, Helen offered up Seacoast Rep. Tickets. Christmas Fair 1st weekend in December. November Meeting. Marshwood fair – pick tickets. Drawing raffle tickets at end of Marshwood Fair – Dec. 7th.

Roseanne and Bob refreshments – were very good.

Next month's refreshment – Julie & Jan will cover. Next month's meeting on Nov. 4th – slides on restoration of barn – with Paul Gorranson.

Program

Carolyn Bogh introduced the evening's presenter Jim Staples accompanied by his sisters Mary and Barbara who shared their insights on the "Mostly My Maine" written by their father Walter Staples. He also shared additional memories of Jim's grandfather Victor. Together they spent weeks at a time here in Eliot as kids with uncle Joe. Their father's memoir is a lot about growing up in Eliot and is based on his journal he kept. His father was born in 1913. Jim, himself also keeps his own journal started his discussion highlighting the value of writing down the day's events and being able to look back over the years to remember and reflect upon his experiences. Jim looked to the group and asked questions about various locations that his father mentioned in the book that are located in the town of Eliot. Most every location was identified by someone in the audience. Locations included the school his father attended, the various blacksmiths who set up shop in the town and where the electric car ran through town. He shared some cute stories on his father's experience milking the neighbors cows and helping out at the Fitzgerald's farm collecting eggs. Everyone enjoyed Jim's discussion, and many had read his father's book and highly recommended it. Joe ended the presentation telling the story of the Bear hunting trip up in Maine during one of Maine's memorable early Thanksgiving snow storms. Jim also shared a story of his own and how he acquired his delicious Blueberry Recipe. The program ended at 7:45pm and was followed by refreshments and the business portion of the meeting.

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

10/7/19