ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – Sept 13, 2021, The Basin

Paul opened the meeting at 5:30pm welcoming back the attendees after the summer break and confirmed the next meeting on Oct 4th at 5:30pm would meet at the Basin as well.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report dated June 7, 2021, was presented, and approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented which reflected all financial transactions since the previous meeting in February 2020 thru August 2021. The report was approved without changes.

Program Committee: A discussion of some ideas for upcoming programs was shared which included field trips to the Kennebunk Trolley Museum, a tour of the Portsmouth Shipyard Museum and a tour of the Kittery Naval Museum. The attendees showed support for this idea.

Eliot Festival Days Committee: In preparation for the upcoming Eliot Festival Days, Paul recommended that we purchase a tent which would cost approximately $150 to have for our permanent use. All approved the purchase of the tent. Jan confirmed that she will coordinate with Debbie to print out order forms for those interested in purchasing the Eliot Flag along with offering of the book on the town of Eliot.

Bicentennial Committee: Jan confirmed the time capsule will be on display and is planned to be sealed at 2pm at Eliot Festival Days. The capsule will be buried on October 15th at 10am in Hammond Park. There will be a marker placed at its location. Several items have been received from the kids at the school, the Rotary club, and others in town. The EHS Newsletters for 2020-2021 will be added to the capsule. The collection has been on display at the Elementary School. This event is the end of the Bicentennial celebration of 2020.

Paul shared a personal "Thank You" to Jan who has been hosting open houses since the 1st Saturday of the Summer months at the School House and has been very successful raising money through the book sales.

Collections: Julie shared that a shipping log of the "Kearsarge", which was a well-known ship built at the Portsmouth Shipyard, was found amongst the collections, and returned to the Portsmouth Shipyard. They were very excited to have received this.

Jan shared that we received two old school desks which fit perfectly with the collection on display at the Old School House. The desks were donated by the Campbell Family. Also received was a carpenter's desk donated by the Isner family. An album with news clippings capturing highlights and events that transpired at the Eliot High School was donated by the Young Family. An Eliot High School Letter Sweater and 1945 Yearbook were also received and have been on display at the Elementary School display. Jan said the kids are enjoying the new items on display. Julie shared that much of the past year; she has been busy at work organizing & cataloguing pictures thar are in our collection.

Fundraising: Julie and Margie confirmed that we have been selected as recipients for the month of September for the Fabulous Finds donation. Julie also confirmed we still have tickets

to sell for the Repertory Theater at $10 / piece. The tickets are good for the 2021-2022 year, with no expiration date. These also will be offered at the Eliot Festival Days.

Correspondence: N/A

Membership: Silvia confirmed that we have received two new memberships this summer.

Building Committee: Paul shared that with the kids / school in session at the Grange Hall, it has been difficult to find a time to complete any maintenance work. Along with mowing, scraping & painting still needs to be done to the front of the building. The School House has needed painting. Paul inquired and received an initial quote of $5000-$5500 and with further inquiries received a second quote for $2500 from Steve Williams, a retired schoolteacher. Paul replaced some rotting boards in preparation of the painting. Steve was extremely efficient and completed the work quickly. The building looks great. In addition, there is a leak in the ceiling. Paul is looking for quotes for a new roof.

Old Business: Paul shared that the Trustees met with Grant to review the Insurance Policy of the Historical Society. The Insurance Policy costs continue to increase each year and there were questions as to what coverage is provided under this policy and to better understand any liabilities that are not covered. On behalf of the EHS, Grant has been making inquiries investigating other coverage options. Paul confirmed that he has also inquired in possible other locations for our group to meet including the Congregational Church – where both parking, access and lighting might be better options for our monthly meetings. Grant confirmed that he has submitted an application for review with another local insurance company.

New Business:

Kathy Runey shared that James Pope "The Lighthouse Guy" has passed away.

Paul shared that an update on the work with the town to establish a database and website for the local cemeteries in Eliot. Paul has identified an organization who can build and maintain this for $1800 and an annual maintenance fee of $20 / year. In working with both Brooks Memorial and Mount Pleasant Cemetery trustees, they have offered to contribute $600 each have this set up. Paul asked the Eliot Historical Society to consider also contributing $600 for a total of $1800. The website will be available to the EHS and public and will be very useful for researching individuals buried at one of the cemeteries within Eliot. Grant made a motioned to consider this request and all attendees voted in favor to allocate the $600 towards this effort. A questioned was raised on what risk there might be if this organization was no longer able to maintain the site? Tracey recommended a committee be established to help with this effort and to oversee the ongoing maintenance of the database on behalf the EHS and the community.

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Oct 4, 2021