

## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – Jan 3, 2022, via ZOOM

Paul kicked off the evening's meeting at 7pm welcoming attendees to our 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly ZOOM meeting. The meeting started with the program lead by Rosanne Adams with a presentation on the history on Punkintown of South Eliot. The business portion of the meeting will follow the program. Tracey confirmed the program will be recorded and posted up to our website for future viewing.

### **Program**

Roseanne provided a presentation on Punkintown in South Eliot which included a slide show of photographs of the maps from the mid-1700s through early 1900s and pictures of family members and homesteads, grist mill and foundation of sites of homes, through history to 1970s showing where the land has been made part of the York Conservation Area. GW... In follow up questions to the program, Tracey asked the history of the name. Jan asked if the area is walkable and if so, would Rosanne be interested to lead a walk through it. Paul and Julie confirmed they have walked and said that GW leads a walk through the rea. It is a long and not an easy walk.

### **Secretary's Report**

Tracey read the secretary's report dated Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. The minutes were approved with 1 correction.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pam read the treasurer's report for the period of 12/1 thru 12/31. The Treasure's report was approved with no corrections.

### **Membership:** N/A

**Programs:** Any suggestions for programs? All are welcome to provide ideas.

**School Display update:** Jan confirmed that the display at the school was updated with the information on the old gym. Julie provided a poem that was written about the old gym. The poem was written Lucian Burbank, class of 1948.

Jan met with Anne Chisler, regarding the gentleman from Rye Historical Society, he is interested to start a program on Elementary School and Rye Historical Society – they had a nice conversation about this. Jan also shared that the event of Wreaths across America – was a very special event for the town of Eliot and share that the there is a plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who can say the pledge of allegiance in Sign Language will be doing pledge of allegiance out by the war memorial in May.

### **Collections:** None

**Building:** Paul received the estimate on roofing, Jay Carnes roofing. He provided an estimate \$6300 for roofing. He does not have any other estimates, but asked if anyone has any recommendations? Rosanne has a family member who is a roofer. Paul said it is a very easy project. Eric commented that the number didn't seem too far off. Paul confirmed it is guaranteed and includes the repair of slate around the chimney where the leak is. Tom O'Leary recommended following up with the town hall to see if the town planner / permit office might be a resource for other companies in the area. Paul will follow up with Rosanne and town and then confirm with Trustees on next steps.

### **Old Business:**

Paul recommended a program on wreaths across America would be an interesting topic if any videos exist. Jan will check into this. Rosanne said there is a nice video from the Legion with placing wreaths in area. There is a national program that includes the Eliot stop. Update on cemetery website. Paul continues to work with

the developer with enhancements. Rosanne has diligently located and reviewed all 169 cemeteries and documented all the names of everyone buried in each and every one of them. Paul publicly thanked Rosanne for her accurate and efficient efforts. Tom O'Leary asked about any efforts for establishing a preservation easement to protect the many private cemeteries from development. Rosanne stated that there is a 20-foot regulation protecting them and also shared that the town has an obligation to protect the veterans' graves that are located in the cemeteries. The Eliot town can take over cemeteries that are neglected and can appoint groups to maintain them. EHS is the primary designator in town. The project to maintain the database of cemeteries started with the town's website which had a partial listing of the town cemeteries. The EHS cemetery website information will be shared and used to update the town website as well.

**New Business:**

Melissa Laymen from "Aging in Place" introduced herself and thanked Rosanne for sharing the very interesting history on Punkintown and thanked the Historical Society for the zoom meeting and information shared. She asked if the Elijah Goodwin cemetery is on the list? Rosanne confirmed it is. Melissa shared that her husband looks after the raking and maintenance each November for the Goodwin cemetery.

Silvia asked what the cost of the zoom capability is and recommended that EHS reimburse Tracey for setting this up. Tracey shared that she was happy to provide this offering for 2022 and would make it an "in-kind" donation and recommended that if EHS would be interested to continue, she would recommend the society put in place their own account that then can be used by the membership as needed and would be happy to help make this happen.

Tracey shared the efforts that both she and Rosanne made on updating the EHS website over the past weeks and asked members that if they have information, photographs they think should be added to let them know and also shared the interest in meeting with Julie to take pictures of various items in the archives / collections to share on the website, Facebook and Instagram to help promote the historical society and to increase public awareness of the group's activities. More to come on this effort.

This ended the business portion of the meeting. Paul confirmed that next meeting is scheduled via Zoom for Feb. 7th via Zoom.

Attendees of the meeting were 18

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Feb 7th, 2022