

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Minutes of the Meeting – Dec. 6, 2021 via ZOOM

Paul kicked off the evening's meeting at 7pm welcoming attendees to our first ZOOM meeting.

Secretary's Report

Tracey read the secretary's report dated Nov 1st. The minutes were approved with 5 corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Pam read the treasurer's report for the period of 11/1 thru 11/30. The Treasurer's report was approved with no corrections.

Old Business:

Paul followed up on the cemetery work efforts. The work and repairs at Roger's cemetery located on Roger's Point has been completed. The owners and their older children were very pleased with the completed effort. Rosanne shared of the work efforts at the Neal Cemetery completed by Jan, Rosanne and Tracey over the course of 3 visits, followed by the completion of the clearing of brush by the landowner, who was very happy to know where to start and what to clear. There is still work to be done. The work at the Spinney Cemetery will be resumed in the Spring, where there are several large trees that need to be removed. It's been a fun effort over the past year.

Jack inquired how many of the cemeteries in Eliot are under custodial care? Rosanne confirmed that there are 169 cemeteries, where approximately 20-30 are being cared for in some way. Paul added that at the Eliot Festival Days, most of the inquiries received pertain to the local cemeteries and the topic seems to garner the most interest.

Paul updated on the website cemetery project, with just about all the data has been inputted into spreadsheets. Rosanne is marking up a map of with the 169 cemeteries, which will then be provided to the website developer. Paul is participating in "preliminary testing" of the website which has been initial set up with the Mount Pleasant information. Paul is testing for bugs found as part of the data conversion.

Paul confirmed that EHS has received \$2500 from the Town of Eliot as per the approved budget allocation for 2021. Pam confirmed that it has been deposited in the bank. Paul also confirmed that he has submitted a request of \$3000 for the 2022 budget year. This includes the annual amount of \$2500 plus additional funds to support the Website annual maintenance fees.

Jan provided an update on Wreaths Across America. The final planning meeting between the school and the fire department took place today. There would be approximately 18 trailer trucks and numerous cars that will arrive in town between 10-10:15am on Dec. 13th – there will be a ceremony at 10:30am at the Fire station. Julie and Paul confirmed that they're driveway would be available for anyone wanting to park and walk down to see the parade.

New Business:

Paul confirmed that Rosanne and Jan are working on program ideas for 2022.

Annual Meeting:

Paul confirmed the annual meeting would commence with the presentation of the Treasurer's Report. Pam presented the annual report dated Dec 1, 2020, through Nov 30, 2021. The report will be submitted for audit. Julie Johnson volunteered to audit the report and has audited it in years past. Jan clarified that the costs of the installation of the Nightingale was paid for out the grant monies received from Kennebunk Savings Bank. Pam confirmed this was noted.

Election of Officers:

Silvia provided confirmation that names have been identified & put forward for the open officer and board positions for the 2022 year, all officers confirmed they would be willing to stay with their positions:

President: Paul Johnson

V.P.: Denny Lentz

Treasurer: Pam Ashley

Secretary: Tracey Graffam-Dickson

The Board of Directors includes 3 positions, with two open:

Kathy Runey was nominated to renew her position, Tracey Graffam-Dickson will continue in hers and Eric Christian is nominated to fill Bob Fisher's.

Paul opened the voting to any other interested volunteers. No additional names were put forward.

Paul also confirmed that in 2022, a new nomination committee is required. Where 2022 will be his last year based on the bylaws of the organization – with a maximum of 6 years for any one person, he will volunteer to be on the nomination committee to help in finding a replacement. Jack McDonough and Sylvia Moynihan also volunteered to join the nomination committee.

Paul put forward the vote for all names put forward for the positions, the nominations were accepted by all in attendance. No objections were noted. This completed the Annual Meeting and the business portion of the meeting.

Program

The evening program commenced with "Show & Tell" by the evening attendees. The items presented included the following:

Jack McDonough presented a photograph of the Russo-Japanese Treaty meeting which took place at the Portsmouth Shipyard in what was called the "Treaty Room". The photograph was believed to have been taken by his grandfather. Paul shared that the meeting room had been used as a production room which needed to be cleaned and side rooms set up for breakout sessions with bathroom facilities for the attendees. Initially the two parties arrived with no intention of coming to agreement, however, the expectation was that neither party would be able to leave until agreement was made. It is said that after having spent a significant amount of time with the New England hosts, the parties were convinced to come to agreement.

Polly McDonough shared one of four books in their collection of 9 Books on American Ornithology which depicts that represents the drawings of birds in flight found in the "Settled Territories" the pictures reflect works from Alexander Wilson and Charles Lution Bonaparte – whose works were captured between 1766-1814.

Rosanne Adams shared a miniature version of the WWI memorial that is located in town. The text is backwards. She is not sure what it would have been used for and is looking for information. She also shared a book and collection on Moses Farmer which includes poetry, information on all his inventions, news clippings. It was part of the collection from Lucian Burbank, class of 1948. Rosanne purchased it from a gentleman in South Berwick.

Pam Ashley shared her new grandson – 5 weeks old and also shared an old Santa Claus ornament that was in her family for many years and one she kept hanging in her home now.

Jan Cerbona shared her baby shoe that was bronzed as a keepsake.

Eric Christian shared an old map of Eliot that showed up on eBay for auction. The map is dated approx.. 1810-1820 and was used to document the need for building new roads in Eliot. The map showed where the new roads were proposed and their mileage between certain points. He shared that he would be updating his blog on Eliot History soon to reflect his findings about the map. He was very excited to have won the auction. Paul confirmed that EHS has a standard process for addressing items that show up on eBay for auction. If anyone does identify items of interest to EHS, they should notify Eric or Rosanne. –Eric and Rosanne will coordinate the bidding process to ensure we don't end up bidding against one another.

Skip Devito shared several items found in his old barn including an old light bulb, an old pair of ladies' shoes which were found in the walls and an old iron and weights. Skip also showed an autographed picture of the Italian conductor, Arturo Toscanini. Lastly, he showed a children's glove that was given to him by his father.

Peggy Elliot shared an old marriage certificate of her great grandparents and set of silver napkin rings she also inherited from her parents.

Kathy Runey shared an old tile that she purchased when she moved to Maine. She also shared an item from her wooden toy collection – which was a wooden rocking horse toy.

Tracey Graffam shared her pin-pillow with a collection of pins received from her grandmother and a book from her library from her Great Grandfather which includes Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The book included a library card from her Great Grandmother, dated 1935.

Julie Johnson shared her Christmas Tree Pin Collection. She also shared a painting that that was part of the Rolla Bartlett Estate, which she received from her sister who is married into the Bartlett family. She also showed a miniature wooden roll-top desk that opened up made by her father.

Paul confirmed that this concluded the evening presentations. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 3rd via Zoom with the possibility of showing a video on "Pumpkin Town".

Attendees of the meeting were 16

-Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Graffam-Dickson

Jan. 6th, 2022