

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes for monthly meeting of Dec 5, 2022
Held at the First Congregational Church of Eliot and via ZOOM.

Paul started off the evening at 7:10pm welcoming attendees to our monthly meeting and in honor of Carolyn Bogh, highlighting her significant support efforts for the EHS and her work to repair and open up the #8 Schoolhouse. In her honor, all participated in a moment of silence. For the program of the evening several attendees took part in sharing unique historical items with the group, including.

To kick off the evening's program, Margie & Skip Brown shared two beautifully old, framed wedding certificates from their collection. Julie presented a collection of some favorite old Christmas Cards from the Bartlett collection including letters from the James Griffin Bartlett that were salvaged from the hardware store, which were saved from a terrible fire.

Jack presented from his collection a book titled "Up Front" written by Bill Malden, photographer, artist, and reporter. He was part of the 45th Infantry Division. His book tells of a number of humorous experiences from life in the army during WWII. The book was published directly after the end of the war in 1945. This book was signed by Jack's grandfather, who owned a sporting goods store in Portsmouth for many years. Polly presented a 1905 Brass plate in the image of Beula Tuttle. Beula had received this brash etching from a "beau" who made it for her.

Helen Sullivan presented an Old Milk bottle from her collection with the original top from Third Hill Farm. She also shared pictures from her grandfather's Sheep Farm and advertisement of Wool he sold to local businesses. She also shared pictures from the family homestead in Eliot and from her childhood days with her siblings.

Jan presented an article that was published in Portsmouth in 1937 which included her mother, who was a seamstress and taught woman how to sew. This was part of the WPA Project (under the New Deal). Jan's mother, before she moved here, from New Bedford, Mass, worked with the WPA project, helping others to sew and clothing, which was very popular at the time. The article stated that from "1937 weekly attendance wasn't below 100". Moving here, in 1939 she worked at Montgomery Ward. Jan also shared an old Popcorn popper. She and Rosanne are working on a display for the school titled "Then & Now", where they are looking for additional items to put in the display that are still used today but look very different... some other examples are an old Lunch Tin and a Stenography book..

Tracey shared her pictures of some favorite family heirloom Christmas Cactus Plants and an African Violet which she inherited from her Great Aunt, who had inherited a piece from her mother-in-law. The plant is more than 100 years old at this point. Others shared how flowers were often shared within their family as well.

To close out the evening's program, Rosanne shared her very detailed and beautifully captured family history. In 2005, when the Paul Family Farm was added to the National Registry of Historic Places, Roseanne created a booklet for the family members as part of the project. While going through all the many family documents, pictures, letters, cards, clippings, she realized that she had over forty 3-ring binders full of family history including many duplicate pictures. When COVID hit and everything was shut down, Rosanne decided to create a scrap book and realized she had enough duplicates for four separate scrap books which she made for her family members and will be giving them as Christmas presents for Christmas this year. Each scrap book captures chronicles the family history through letters, pictures, maps, even locks of hair and captures a detailed history of both sides of the Paul Family. Everyone enjoyed her presentation and all the presentations given.

The group then took a break and enjoyed refreshments provided by Margie.

Following the refreshments, Paul kicked off the business portion of the meeting.

Secretary's Report (Tracey Graffam-Dickson): Tracey read the secretary's report dated 11/07/22. The minutes were approved with no correction.

Treasurer's Report (Pam Ashley): Pam read the Treasurer's Report which covered the period of 11/1/2022 thru 11/30/22. The report was approved with no corrections.

Programs (Rosanne Fisher and Jan Cerabona): N/A

Membership (Sylvia Moynahan): Sylvia shared that \$50 donation was received and asked if donations of this size would automatically result in a free membership. It was confirmed that a life-time membership is \$50 and a yearly membership is \$10. Megan Weeks has made a number of donations and provided much support over the years. A motion was put forward to give Megan a lifetime membership. All voted in favor. Question was opened for discussion. Rosanne confirmed that Megan is currently a life-time member.

Building (Paul Johnson): N/A

Fundraising (Margie Brown): N/A

Education (Jan Cerabona): N/A

Cemetery Committee (Paul Johnson): N/A

Collections (Julie Johnson): N/A

Correspondence (Helen Sullivan): N/A

PR/Publicity (Rosanne Fisher and Jan Cerabona): N/A

Grants (Helen Goransson): N/A

Old Business: Paul confirmed receipt of the town contribution of the 2022 Budget allocation and also reminded attendees of the Wreaths Across America coming through Eliot, on Monday, Dec. 13th at noon. He also invited all to participate with the laying of the Wreaths on Saturday at 1pm.

New Business: Paul confirmed receipt of the town contribution of the 2022 Budget allocation. Due to the timing of the 1st Monday of January, being a holiday, Paul recommended that we meet on the 2nd Monday instead. The question was put to the attendees, all in attendance supported moving the meeting to January 9th, 2023. The meeting will be held at as usual at 7 pm at the Congregational Church and via Zoom.

Paul closed out the monthly meeting at 8:30pm and kicked off the annual meeting and the election of officers.

Attendees of the meeting were 14

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosanne Adams

APPROVED: JANUARY 9, 2023