

MINUTES
ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
March 13, 2023

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Attendance: 19 (1 by ZOOM)

Meeting opened at 7pm by President Tracey Graffam-Dixon who welcomed those in attendance and thanked Rosanne and Bob Fisher for the evening's refreshments and encouraged those who haven't already filled out the Membership Survey for Priority Planning 2023/2024 to take one and fill it out before they go..

Program: Tracey introduced Rosanne, who gave an overview of the work of members of the Society on the town's Comprehensive Plan as it relates to historical and archaeological concerns. She went over the various topics in the inventory, which is the first phase in the updating of the plan. Rosanne welcomed members to take a look at the newly published draft, and make comments. She will be calling a meeting of the members who are interested in developing goals and strategies, during the next phase.

The President thanked Rosanne for the overview and then opened the business portion of our meeting.

BUSINESS

1. January and February 2023 minutes were APPROVED
2. Treasurer's Quarterly Report was READ and APPROVED
3. Julie and Paul Johnson reported that the AUDIT has been completed, with no inconsistencies found. A letter, stating such, will be submitted to the Secretary. The president thanked Julie and Paul for their service.
4. Program Committee: [Jan Cerabona/ Rosanne Fisher] reported that the April program will be "Eliot Stores", which coincides with the display they will be putting up at the Elementary School, at the end of March. It was suggested and the committee will especially invite the owners of the Maine Market. May program is a presentation by Ann Shisler from Eliot Elementary School, sharing with us what the 2nd graders are learning during their Eliot history studies. They are also inviting us to a program on May 25 where the students will present a program (7pm at the Elementary School) and Jan explained some of the anticipated aspects.
5. Education: [Jan Cerabona]
 - a. Displays will go up at the end of March at both the Great Works School and Eliot Elementary. At Great Works we are working with Old Berwick Historical Society and the theme will be schools in both towns from 1804 to 2023. It will show how our school buildings evolved. There is also an ongoing conversation with Tracey Lapointe at Marshwood Middle School, where it is hoped to have a display as well.
 - b. 2nd grade children will be visiting the schoolhouse in May and later the four classes from the Central School in South Berwick will be making their first visit. Jan asked that we have a portapotty available, especially for the visit of the South Berwick children, but also, during the summer, when the schoolhouse will be open each Saturday from 10-2. Paul said it is quite expensive at around \$110/month. It was suggested that perhaps we could get a discount. Paul will look into it.
6. Building Committee [Paul Johnson] Looking for someone to paint the sign on our schoolhouse so that it can be ready for May and the visit of the school children. Ernie Bruneau volunteered to do that.

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7. Publicity: Jan reported that we had been given permission to put up large posters with information about our programs, meetings, schoolhouse, etc. at the Library and the Town Hall and also have space at the Post Office.
 - a. It was suggested and she and Rosanne will also look into putting something up at the Bank and see if we can get some new releases printed in the area newspapers, announcing our program line-up and then individual articles each month on the program.
 - b. Sylvia suggested putting up a sandwich board previous to our meeting. Julie mentioned the sign at the Advent Church and perhaps the Congregational Church might let us do something like that.
 - c. Paul will check with the Church to see what we can do there
8. Fundraising: Presently Tracey Graffam-Dixon, Marge Brown and Julie Johnson are on the committee. Volunteers are needed, with the understanding that we will be looking to do "partnership" fundraisers and not the bake sale/yard sales that were done previously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. June "Road Trip": As part of our June program on the "Narcissus", we and the Old Berwick Historical Society have been invited for a day at the Seashore Trolley Museum in June. Rosanne went over the program and said that it would be free for members and regular admission prices for non-members. Members will have to make reservations so that we can make tickets or name tags and let them know how many will be coming. Given two possible dates, it was AGREED that June 21st will be the date of our visit and the RSVP will be by the middle of May.
2. Collaborative Historic Garden: Tracey reported that she and Polly McDonough will be working with the library to develop the garden. All interested, please contact Tracey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. May is Older American's Month
2. Great Works Regional Land Trust will have a walk at the Goodwin Forest, in Eliot, from 10-11:30 on 26 April.
3. Helen Sullivan and Jan Cerabona have refreshments for our April meeting.
4. Be sure to drop off your membership surveys before you leave.
5. Next Meeting, April 10th

Meeting closed at 9:05pm, followed by refreshments

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne M. Adams-Fisher, Secretary