

**Minutes of the
Eliot Historical Society Meeting
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
June 12, 2023**

President Tracey Graffam-Dickson opened the meeting at 7PM

Julie and Paul Johnson were thanked for the evening's refreshments.

Present were 21 and 5 on ZOOM

PROGRAM: THE NARCISSUS. In preparation for our visit to the Seashore Trolley Museum this month, Rosanne, with the help of Tracey Graffam-Dickson and Jan Cerabona presented a short program that focused on the memories of Mildred Obrey, which were used in the writing of Jean Flahive's book "Teddy Roosevelt, Millie, and the Elegant Ride". Presented was an introduction that recounted Mildred Obrey's association with the town and her teaching days at Eliot and South Berwick Schools, followed by taking a look at the history of the *Narcissus* and then with Mildred's recollections, which were read by Jan as Rosanne scrolled through a series of pictures, illustrating those recollections. The program ended with a 3D virtual "tour" of the *Narcissus* as it will look when fully restored and details about the June visit to see the restoration in progress.

Following a short break and refreshments, the business portion of the meeting began at 8:04 pm

BUSINESS

- 1) Discussed Refreshment sign ups. We were reminded about the August cookout. A suggestion was made that at the December meeting it be a potluck, as it is our holiday party event. All agreed.
- 2) Motion made and 2nd to accept the minutes of March, April and May of 2023. Motion PASSED.
- 3) Secretary Report:
 - a) Received was a thank you card from Jeff and Eve Brubaker.
 - b) Digital copies of pictures of the 1960 town celebration, taken by Martha Wisley were sent to us, for our collection, by grand-daughter Karla Houge
 - c) Edward Peterson is searching for information on the polio cases, occurring in Eliot and area in the 1950s.
 - d) Merilee Sawyer is looing for information on the Rev. Chandler – this was answered by Eric.
 - e) Alex Fecteau offered his volunteer services
 - f) The town is looking for its oldest citizen to award the Boston Post Cane. Norman Leavitt has no interest in it. Julie will call Roberta Leavitt's daughter. Robert is 99 and may be the oldest citizen.

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4) Treasurer Report: Kathy Runey read the quarterly report, covering the period March 1st to May 31st. There was a motion, 2nd and vote to APPROVE the report. Members were reminded that the Directors and Offices receive monthly updates on the funds and then the quarterly report is brought to the body for approval. Kathy recommended that we put the “building” monies into a CD to get greater interest. If we do this, we would need to take the funds out of Kennebunk Savings Bank because they don’t do CDs for business/non-profits.

5) Membership: Sylvia Moynahan reported that we have 4 new annual members

6) Programs: Rosanne Adams went over the programs for the remaining year. Paul Johnson volunteered to do the set up for our August meeting at the Boat Basin.

7) Schoolhouse Building: Paul Johnson had nothing new to report. Alex Fecteau who offered to volunteer will be given Paul’s contact information.

8) Publicity: Rosanne Adams reported that notice of our meetings had gone into the local papers as well as online sources including FaceBook and eliotonline list server

9) Fundraising: Jan Cerabona brought up that we have copies of the 1910 Eliot Centennial Book reprint (that were being stored at the Library) and we will make them for sale at the schoolhouse. The “Millie” book is also for sale, along with other Narcissus related notecards. The idea of holding a raffle for Eliot Festival Day was discussed. Kathy Runey let us know that she has CLINK bags and stickers available for the can/bottle recycle fundraiser that is now started. She also explained another fundraising avenues – Thrivent and Raiseright. Margie Brown said that Robert’s Grill no longer does the Community Partnership Program but we might want to check out other restaurants such as Johnson’s, York River Landing and the Shipyard. Our turn for Fabulous Find will be coming up soon, as well.

10) Education: Jan Cerabona reported that we are closing out the year at the schools. Our displays have gone very well and received much interest. Rosanne and she are working on ideas for next year’s displays. In May, the Hike through History Program, which is a yearly event, will provide the opportunity for a display at the Marshwood Middle School. Jan is also having interesting conversations with people who have come to the #8 Schoolhouse and those interested in volunteering there.

NEXT MEETING: August 14, 2023 at the Eliot Boat Basin, 5PM. Paul will have the grill going and people are welcome to bring something to share, if they wish.

Meeting closed at 9PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne M. Adams, Secretary