

**Minutes of the
Eliot Historical Society Meeting
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
September 11, 2023**

President Tracey Graffam-Dickson opened the meeting at 7PM

Present were 14 and 1 on ZOOM

PROGRAM: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the program on the History of the Pre-School Program will have to be re-scheduled. Filling in was a short program on the cleaning of the Gould Cemetery that is being undertaken by new members Denise Houde-Forsyth and Jeanne Houde. They have been raking up leaves and cutting back brush as well as investigating some interesting stones outside the enclosure. Following the digging out of the base stones, that are sunken, Paul Johnson, with the assistance of Elliot Place, has been working with them to fix the problem. Rosanne Adams prepared some slides that Denise had sent along and we got a look at what was being done there. Full reports will be in our Newsletters.

BUSINESS

- 1) Education: Jan Cerabona reported that visitors at the #8 Schoolhouse this summer was slow, but conversations were interesting when visitors were there. She was always able to find something to do, while waiting and she is asking for help to keep the Schoolhouse open. One visitor made a suggestion to put a notice on the door so when it is closed people can call to schedule an appointment. Rosanne made the sign and it is now up on the door with her phone number to call.
- 2) Tracey reported that there were about 15-18 people at the August picnic and there were two who came and joined the Society.
- 3) Membership: Sylvia Moynahan reported that we have two new life memberships (1 family and 1 individual).
- 4) Programs: Rosanne Adams reminded members of the October Program on the Nightingale by Frankie Thomas and the November program with author Ann Gass who will talk about woman's suffrage in Maine.
- 5) Membership: Sylvia Moynahan reported that we have 4 new annual members
- 6) Collections: Julie Johnson reported receiving several 3 ring binders from Rosanne Adams/Robert Fisher with their research and related papers. Tracey asked if things were digitized and Rosanne replied that the things in the binders are probably all digitized, but it would take some work to go through and pull them off her computer for EHS. She would be happy to do this later. There was some discussion about our "snow roller" and what plans we might have for it to be displayed. Julie told about one in North Conway that is on display.
- 7) Report on trip in June to Seashore Trolley Museum: There was a short discussion and it was noted that a report was published in the July newsletter for the members.

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- 8) Schoolhouse Building: Paul Johnson reported that Ernie Bruneau has repainted the outside signs for the schoolhouse and thanked him.
- 9) Fundraising: Margie Brown reported that Congdons in Wells said NO to having us there this summer at their food truck event on Thursday night. Robert's Grill does not do their community meals fundraisers any more. Tracey volunteered to get an application from Fabulous Find in Kittery. Paul and Julie volunteered to set up our booth for Eliot Festival Day (last Saturday in September).
- 10) Treasurer Report: Kathy Runey gave the 3rd Quarter report for June 1 to August 31. There was a motion, 2nd and vote to ACCEPT the report, as read.
- 11) Minutes: The June minutes were not ready. They will be presented at the next meeting.
- 12) Input to Town Planner re: sidewalk and shoulder extension to Grange Hall. Discussed were concerns with further water runoff that will acerbate the moisture problem downstairs. The subject of historic signage, which was one of the suggestions, was discussed and Eric Christian said he had some ideas on what might be put there. Tracey will communicate our concerns and further thoughts to the Town Planner. Rosanne Adams said that the Grange will also be meeting to make its recommendations and reminded the Society that we needed to work with the Grange regarding signage, etc. as we do not own the building.
- 13) Request from Aging in Place (Jenny Isler) re: history signage on the Town Hall property in creating a "Memory Walk". Tracey will speak with her and request more information as to just what EHS is being asked to do. She will let Jenny know that, at this time, we are willing to provide information for the signage.
- 14) The "Silent Policemen" and meeting with Select Board on September 14, 5:30pm. Rosanne, Jan, and Tracey are preparing a letter to be read advocating for at least one to remain in the town and put on display and the other loaned to the Seashore Trolley Museum. Members are asked to come to the meeting to support this effort.
- 15) George Gefrich – Brigitte's Chapel. Mr. Gefrich, who lives on Heron Cove Rd, has built a Chapel in honor of late wife Brigitte and, along with his beautiful gardens, has designated it public space. Several officers have already met Mr. Gefrich and seen his property and all members are encouraged to stop by and see for themselves. We have committed to him to "get the word out" to the public and he is inviting townspeople to an Octoberfest there on September 30th from 1-4.
- 16) Moving our Collection: Due to several issues, including moisture, the Directors and Officers feel that we may be moving our collection and will need help to do so, hopefully before the Holidays. It was suggested that we need to begin again those talks with the Town Manager and Planner to see if they will help us provide a permanent home of our collection.

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NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2023

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne M. Adams, Secretary