

**Minutes of the
Eliot Historical Society Meeting
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
February 12, 2024**

Vice-President Paul Johnson opened the meeting at 7PM. President Tracey, out of town, joined us on ZOOM. Paul welcomed everyone; thanked Julie for the wonderful holiday refreshments and Valentine's display and reminded everyone about annual dues and the new 2024 sign-up sheet for refreshments, that was circulated throughout the room.

Present were 15 in person and 3 on ZOOM

Paul introduced Eric Christian who gave us an overview of our website. Navigating through the site, he pointed out the various "pages" where information could be found on membership, volunteering, the Adopt a Cemetery Project, past meeting minutes and newsletters, past program videos, talks, brochures and information on Eliot's history as well as pictures, and links to our cemetery database, the town maps of 1840, 1852, and 1872, donations, as well external historical links. Before closing he showed us the external link to the newest of our resources – the Mosersoft Cemetery database and to our Facebook page, which Rosanne maintains.

PROGRAM- "Be My Valentine". Julie Johnson began the program by sharing the things she had laid out on the table which included very old valentine cards belonging to her family and a book of Valentines which Rosanne had brought. She found an article in New England Living Magazine (Jan/Feb 1950) and shared with us the history of St. Valentine, who back in 270AD was beheaded for refusing to repudiate Christianity. As an aside, the magazine also had an article about women who hooked fugs at Lanier Craft's Shed. Pictures of old valentines were then shared, followed by discussion. Sylvia shared one made in Germany and talked about children in school exchanging valentines and the use of crepe paper in making cards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- March program – History of the SAD #35 Pre-School program with Jan Cerabona.
- At the next meeting representatives from Aging in Place Committee, the Eliot Garden Club, Great Works Regional Land Trust and the William Fogg Library are being invited to share with us their plans for the coming year. It will give us the opportunity to see where we can collaborate this coming year.
- The Town is working on the next phase of the Comprehensive Plan: Goals, Policies, and Strategies with goal to have our input completed by the end of May, early June. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Tracey or Rosanne.
- Tracey will be meeting with Aging in Place Committee and town to discuss further the plans for the Memory Walk and how we might assist.
- Skip Devito expressed interest in presenting a history of farming and antique homes in the area. It was also noted that there is a Peter Randall film on farms which might be offered at some point.

DISCUSSION:

- Program suggestions – contact Portsmouth Athenaeum to see what they might have to offer – brickyards, shipbuilding, etc. Looking at possible program at Green Acre and or Sarah Orne Jewett house in

**Minutes of the
Eliot Historical Society Meeting
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
February 12, 2024**

conjunction with Sarah Farmer/Sarah Orne Jewett displays that will be put up at Great Works School, in the Spring.

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2024

Meeting ended at 8:20pm, followed by refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne M. Adams, Secretary