

**Minutes of the
Eliot Historical Society Meeting
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church
October 14, 2024**

President Tracey Graffam-Dickson opened the meeting at 7PM, welcoming those present.

Present were 16.

PROGRAM

The video “Farming 101” by Peter Randall was shown. This video centers around the farms (past and present) in the Goodwin/Wilson Road corridor in Eliot/Kittery. Featured are the Rowen, Johnson, Shultz, Leavitt, and Kashmer farms located along that route. Following, those present shared their own stories about the farms and families, there and in their own neighborhoods

BUSINESS

1) **Eliot Festival Day:** We were not able to support having a booth at this year’s Eliot Festival Day. However, Jan and Rosanne were at the #8 Schoolhouse and had, what they felt was the “best day ever” with a good number of visitors, resulting in great conversations and some donations for the museum. We also had some of our brochures on other tables at the event.

Kathy, who serves on the EFD committee spoke about the parade (which was on time) and how smoothly things went. There were a large # of booths and more shirts had to be ordered for the road race because of an unexpected surge in participants. Fireworks were back, after a hiatus of several years and there were many favorable reports from attendees.

2) **Reports:**

a) Jan reported that the #8 Schoolhouse has closed for the season, but she and Rosanne are already planning for some special events since the heat pump allows us to go further into the fall. There will be a Halloween drop-in on Saturday, October 26th from 11-3. The schoolhouse will be decorated and there will be games and treats for children.

b) The heat pump is working out very well and there are now plans to add an electric toilet for the building for those hosting as well as visiting.

c) The youth group from the Church of Latter-Day Saints, accompanied by their parents did quick work cleaning up the Farmer and Hanscom cemeteries in back of the Moses Farmer house on State Road. It was organized by the Herrin family who has taken on these projects for us each year. We look forward to having them back in the spring of 2025.

3) **Announcements:**

a) Jan spoke of the medical needs of her daughter Sue and family and asked if anyone would like to help, there has been a Go-Fund Me account set up. Anyone liking more information is asked to contact Jan.

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b) School Displays – On October 30, Jan will be helping teachers and students at EES plant flags around the school's flag pole. On November 1st members of the community are invited to come and place a flag (they will be provided) as we approach Veteran's Day. The display at the school will honor Veterans.

c) Cheryl (Remick) Goodwin is at Cedars Health Center in Portsmouth (formerly the clipper home). Helen Sullivan will send her a card.

NEXT MEETING November 11, 2024 . Eric Christian will be speaking about the history of Wood Island and the recent meeting there with members of area historical societies.

Meeting closed at 9PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rosanne M. Adams, Secretary