

**Minutes of the  
Eliot Historical Society Meeting  
McPherson Hall, First Congregational Church  
December 9, 2024**

Vice-President Paul Johnson opened the meeting at 7PM, welcoming those present.

Present were 14 in person and 3 on ZOOM.

**BUSINESS**

1. The Refreshment sign-up sheet was passed around
2. All past minutes, as posted on-line and sent via the newsletter were approved.
3. Quarterly Treasurer Report was read and attached.
4. Paul reported that we have gotten an estimate to install a chemical/electric toilet at the Schoolhouse. Jan is working on getting a grant for this. He suggested, because it takes time to get it done and this is our carpenter's (Keith Leavitt) "off time", that we take a loan from the Building Fund to pay for it and then reimburse it. All present AGREED to this plan. Paul will let Keith know that he can proceed.
5. Education Report – The displays at EES will be changed out to "The Two Sarahs" (Sarah Farmer/Sarah Orne Jewett). At GWS a display looking at places depicted in coloring books, done several years ago, will be on display with their modern day counterpart pictures. This will be put up in mid-January. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders helped to decorate a "bird tree" as part of the decoration of the outside of the #8 Schoolhouse building. The tree will be up at the end of this week, with Paul Johnson helping Rosanne and Jan. The #8 Schoolhouse building will be used on the 19<sup>th</sup> by Ann Shisler for a part for the staff of EES.
6. Fundraising – Two "Community Dinner Nights" have been set up for our Society. Ora Bell's BBQ in Kittery for March 27<sup>th</sup> and Loco Cocos in Kittery for June 17<sup>th</sup>. We will advertize on our social media sites as well as the businesses also promoting. The Society will receive a portion of the proceeds from these nights. We hope everyone will invite their friends.
7. Wreaths Across America – helpers will meet at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for a noon ceremony, followed by placing of the wreaths at Mt. Pleasant and Brooks Cemeteries.
8. Members who attended the gathering on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall in Eliot, where Gwyneth Wykes spoke, shared their impressions of the event. It was very well attended (standing room only) and the talks very moving.
9. Jan reported that she and Rosanne had attending a "Holiday Prelude" event at the Model Train Building at Seashore Trolley Museum. They urge people to check it out. An amazing display with places you will readily recognize.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Election of officers –

No change except for the need for a President

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Continuing are Paul Johnson as Vice-President, Kathy Runey, Treasurer and Rosanne Adams- Fisher, Secretary (unless someone would like to do it). Rosanne is also looking for someone to take over the newsletter, even if it is only put out 4 times a year.

Board of Directors – Eric Christian agreed to continue Donald Webber will take Jack McDonough’s place on the board.

Julie Johnson was appointed to audit the treasury books.

VOTED to change the start time of our monthly meeting to 6:30. This will start January 2025.

Treasurer Report for 2024 was read and APPROVED

**PROGRAM**

Our Annual “Show and Tell” featured many interesting items and was followed by a wide variety of refreshments, brought by members.

Julie Johnson had an old button, from the collection of her grandmother Louise Leavitt that depicted the tree that appears on the old Maine Flag.

Bill Morgridge brought on old deed for property on Cedar Road that belonged to his great-great father Amos Cousins. He remembers being told that his grandfather bought a new cook stove and when it arrived by train at the Eliot Depot, being told that it would cost 5 cents to have it delivered, decided to just put it on his back and walk home with it!

Rosanne Adams-Fisher talked about Eliot’s newspaper, “The Curmudgeon” that was produced for about 7 years (1998-2010). She shared pictures of some of the founding members – Deb Perkins, Ellen Lemire, Esther Morrow and herself – and how it all came out. She brought copies for people to take home and said that a complete, bound copy is in the EHS collection. There were also copies of the “Shapleigh Chronicles”, put out by the Shapleigh Family Association, for people to take. These also contain much information on early Eliot.

Jan Cerabona talked about the 1976 Quilt that was done for America’s Bicentennial celebration, here in Eliot. She found a book, showing each of the squares and noting the student who did the artwork and the person who made the square. She found it when looking for something else at the William Fogg Library. She was allowed to take it and have EHS preserve it, given the library back a copy of it. She is hoping we can use it, in some way, as we prepare for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Bud Moynahan had a ruler from a bakery in Portsmouth and Syliva Moynahan had a framing ruler that was used by her grandfather who was a carpenter for the Wentworth Hotel. She also share her grandmother and grandfather’s marriage “booklet” (1901).

Adam Gilsdorf and Joan Clutting, who bought an old Spinney House on Eliot Neck (246 Main Street), shared with us some of the things they had found, in the walls and under floor boards, while working on it. They, at first, appeared to be “trolley tickets”, but on a close look it showed them to be small, collectable cards issued by W.T.

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Grants in Portsmouth. There was a picture of a movie star and info on one side and a fortune on the other. Possible came from an old fortune telling booth? Those present had fun telling Adam and Joan what they knew about the house and those that lived there before. One of the notables was “Boomer Hayes” or “Crazy Hayes” who was quite a character. [Lot Map 2, Lot 6. Book 5278, Page 275]

NEXT MEETING December 9, 2024 . Our Annual Holiday Gathering with Potluck desserts and Business Meeting. There are several position openings to be voted upon

Meeting closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosanne M. Adams - Fisher, Secretary

