

## ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting – January 7, 2013

John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Rosanne Adams called the meeting to order at 7 a.m.

**Secretary's Report** – Helen Goransson, incoming secretary, read the secretary's report of December 3, 2012 prepared by outgoing secretary Helen Sullivan. Report was approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report** – Richard Bogh read the Treasurer's Report as of January 7, 2013. The report is attached. Balance as of 12/31/12 in checking was \$3,671.82. With debits of \$184.33 and credits of \$172.00, the balance as of 1/7/13 was \$3,659.49. The balance in the savings account as of 11/30/12 was \$20,906.31. Interest of \$1.78 was earned and the balance as of 1/7/13 in savings was \$20,908.09.

**Correspondence Chair**- Helen Sullivan sent a get well card to Jeannette Paul and also had a birthday card for her. Today is her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Members reported she is now out of the hospital.

**Membership** – Sylvia Moynahan reported that she is always available to accept membership renewals and new memberships.

**Programs** – Carol Zamarchi had copies of the new schedule of programs for 2013 available or members to pick up.

**Collections, Building, PR/Publicity, Education, Grants** – Nothing new to report. Those wishing to make contributions to the collections should limit their donations to Eliot-related items, since space is limited.

**Fund Raising** – There will be an Appraisal Day in March, once Hap Moore provides the dates of his availability. Again, people will be given the opportunity to bring in items for experts Hap Moore and his colleague Lee Horowitz to determine their value. This was a successful event last year and will be held again at the Methodist Church. More information to follow. Also, there will be a yard sale in the spring, so save your items. This year, there will be a rain date in the event of inclement weather.

**Old (and New) Business** – 68 Days of Hunger continues to collect and distribute food for children with not enough to eat during the weekends. All donations are still welcome and EHS members take part in the work of getting the backpacks to those needy students. Cindy Lentz pointed out that within the 10 neighboring towns there are 400 hungry children who are

receiving assistance through this program. Cindy conveyed her thanks to EHS members who have been involved.

**Old Business** - Fran Richardson Memorial. Julie Johnson had a conversation with Ella Richardson about what they want to do.

**Acknowledgements** – Thanks to Julie Johnson for the night’s refreshments (available at Judith Hilt’s house).

**Upcoming meeting** – February refreshments will be the responsibility of Toni and Keith Searles. February 4th’s program will be the history of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and its role and achievements in times of war and peace. Gary Hildreth will be the presenter.

**Evening’s Program** – The meeting adjourned approximately 7:30 p.m. and Judith Hilt then invited everyone to walk or drive to her house down the street for what was to be a Fairy Land tour of her home as decorated for the holidays with an abundance of historical antiquities.

Judith explained that thanks to a land grant from King Charles to her ancestors, her family has lived in the area since around 1694. The Douglasses and Fernalds and generations have lived at the Fernald house down the road, and she has collected holiday artifacts and keeps multiple Christmas trees decorated throughout the house. Among her most cherished possessions is her display of 8 generations of art on her walls. She invited folks to roam around the house and ask questions, and she had handouts to share, along with the refreshments prepared by the Historical Society.

The house consists of a studio in which she does her sewing work, a dining room, living room, kitchen, hallway, study, bathroom, pink bedroom, and purple bedroom. Of note:

- The studio contained a tree of ornaments that were 50-70 years old, many of them found in the Brooks House in 2004, lace from the Fernald House, purses and antique dolls from the Douglas and Fernald Houses
- The dining room boasted a China closet purchased in Portsmouth in 1914 for \$15, and items that belonged to Lillian Fernald, Judith’s great-grandmother
- The living room contained art produced by Judith’s family
- The kitchen shelves were brimming with vintage kitchen implements
- The hallway was lined with generations of family artwork
- In the study hung a portrait of the Fernald children taken in the late 1800’s
- The various bedrooms were also decorated with Christmas trees and furnished with items from the Brooks House and aunt Olive Tobey Shapleigh

The entire tour was a holiday delight and we are grateful to Judith for opening up her home to share her treasures and anecdotes with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Goransson