

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

Denny called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. There were 56 in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the January meeting. There was one correction and they were then approved.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson gave the treasurer's report showing a credit for dues and debits for CMP, Grange rental and Bi-Centennial sign supplies giving a balance in the checking account of \$348.12. A credit of interest gave a balance of \$12,461.61 in the savings account.

## Committee Chair Reports

Correspondence Report Polly McDonough said that she had suggested to Peggy that she send a sympathy card on behalf of the Historical Society to the family of June Goodwin.

Membership Report Janet Saurman reported that she is up to 50 paid members for the year including new memberships she just acquired at the door. She restated that dues are \$5 for the calendar year. There is also an option to pay for a lifetime membership.

Collections Julie said there was nothing new to report on collections but she wanted to remind members that there are plans to hold a yard sale in May. Please save your items for the sale.

PR/Publicity Carolyn Bogh said that she is planning an article about what the Eliot Historical Society is doing to prepare for the Bi-Centennial in Eliot. Let her know if there is anything that should be added to the article.

Bi-Centennial Planning Most committees are working hard with nothing new to report.

-Signs-Paul said that his committee has identified 18 intersections or hills in Eliot that they plan to mark with their signs. We need to provide the lumber and Fran Hartford is willing to make the signs. Paul held up a sample of what they intend to make. We will need pieces of lumber at least 40" by 9" for the signs. Julie has made

stencils. The signs will be painted & stenciled. Janet said it might be nice to incorporate these sites as part of Roseanne's historic tour for the Bi-Centennial.

-Eliot Poem-Jeanette Paul said she has a good start on the poem.

-Eliot History-Rosanne said that she has acquired information about 100 sites and families in Eliot. It could probably evolve into a book.

-Jan Cerabona stood up to say she is doing publicity for the Bi-Centennial. She plans to have some flyers ready by 2/27. She has some ideas for breaking the town into neighborhoods. She wants to distribute questionnaires to see how the people would like to get involved and perhaps to sponsor different events

### Old Business

Denny told the society members that he was approached by Helen Sullivan asking to use Historical Society's tax ID to open a bank account to hold donated funds for a liver transplant for an Eliot infant, Addison Becker. He said he had thought it was the right thing to do. Members agreed in a vote. Helen said that Addison's aunt was able to donate a portion of her liver and it seems to be working.

### New Business

Janet suggested a way to use the schoolhouse at the Bi-Centennial. She would be willing to schedule some time to read some of the memories of old Eliot that Eric Christian is currently working at collecting.

Anne Shisler, a second grade teacher from the Eliot elementary school came forward to tell us about her plans to ask a professional songwriter to work with the students for a week and come up with a song in honor of the Bi-Centennial. The cost would be \$1600. She was asking for a donation from us and will ask the children to help with a fundraiser. After a discussion there was a motion, that was seconded and the members voted to donate \$400 to help the children do a special song for the Bi-Centennial.

Denny said he had a communication from Cabbot Farm Dairy. They are offering to donate cheese sticks to be given out at the Bi-Centennial parade instead of candy.

### Announcements

Denny had received an application for a summer camp at Mast Cove Camp. He put it on the table for members to look at if interested.

Denny announced that Maine National History Day is March 24<sup>th</sup>.

He thanked Sally & Fran Hartford for the night's refreshment.

Denny then adjourned the business meeting and called upon the program chairman, Carol Zamarchi.

Carol then introduced Eliot resident, Connie Weeks to talk to us about Homesteading in Eliot and Old Time Farming. Connie & her husband, Silas decided that they would like to own a farm in 1972. Connie and Silas taught, he at UNH. After unsuccessfully looking in New Hampshire they found a farm in Eliot, which they called 'Back Fields Farm'. Connie said that they had some helpful mentors. They set about clearing an area and started an orchard. The house needed insulation and they had to replace windows. She said that they planted a big garden and had a great crop, as insects had not found their garden yet. They raised vegetables, flowers, strawberries, blue berries, and bay berries. They enjoyed using earlier implements for tasks on their farm and showed us some of their old time tools and farm implements. At various times they raised cattle, pigs, sheep and chickens. They decided to raise hay and she particularly liked using a "dump rake" for the harvesting. When raising pigs they butchered using all the parts including making lye soap. She learned and became a beekeeper. Connie said they enjoyed making maple syrup. They tapped 43 trees (which they had planted earlier) and ended up with 25 gallons of syrup. In her display she had a beautiful quilt, which incorporated items that represented their farm. While Silas was alive they were instrumental in beginning farmers' markets in the area. Connie's talk kept everyone's interest and she answered several questions.

The refreshments were then served by Sally & Fran Hartford.

Respectfully submitted  
Dorothy Hansen, Secretary

