

ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting for March 7, 2011
John F. Hill Grange Hall, Eliot, ME

President Denny Lentz called the meeting to order with 26 in attendance.

Secretary's Report Dorothy Hansen read the minutes of the February meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report Julie Johnson read the Treasurer's report showing debits for the electric bill, State of ME annual filing fee, Grange rental and deposit for music for the 2011 Ball. She said there were credits for Helen Goransson's donation from her book sales as well as another donation and annual dues giving a balance in the checking account of \$3,448.16. An interest credit brought the balance to \$14,560.87 in the savings account. Julie's report was approved.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership Janet Saurman said that she now has about 50-55 paid members for 2011. Denny then took the opportunity to acknowledge Janet's work for obtaining office equipment from a Portsmouth company. We acquired 9 heavy-duty filing cabinets. Denny said thanks to Eric, Paul and Zip for helping to pick-up and deliver the cabinets to Tobey Sheet Metal. Janet said she sent a thank you to the company.

Programs Carol Zamarchi said that she has put the future programs listing at the back of the room so whoever wants one can get one.

Collections Julie said there was some work done on the collection that day. She said the file cabinets are very nice.

Fund Raising Carol said that her committee would probably meet this month. They have already reserved the Regatta Room, the DJ and the Square Dance caller for this year's Ball. Denny said as soon as we get a theme he would ask if Polly could do some posters and tickets would be made. Denny again reminded people to save their items for the yard sale, which will probably be in mid May.

Education Jeanette was not in attendance since she had her surgery. Denny asked how she is doing and was told that Jeanette is at home and seems to be doing well.

Grants Helen Goransson has sent off an application for a \$10,000 Grant from the Maine Community Foundation. Denny read part of a copy from her application

where Helen had said “that we are cataloguing, storing and displaying our historical treasures for the Town of Eliot, while looking for a permanent home for our collection”. She also is applying for a grant from the Maine Historical Society, which would be for digitizing our collection. It would be a long-term goal so we would be able to share our collection with surrounding towns.

Building Planning Committee Zip said that his committee will be meeting the following Monday at 7PM.

Old Business

Denny said that the Trustees had a meeting to discuss “providing a certificate for historical restoration of a home to the original condition”. Denny asked Jack McDonough to report on their meeting. Jack came forward to report on the trustees meeting. Jack said they had a good discussion talking about interior and exterior historical restorations. The homeowner would submit an application for the recognition. In the application they would submit as much history as possible of the home giving when the house was built, who has lived in the house, what style was it, etc? Jack said that if we asked the right questions we could get a wealth of information. The Historical Society would retain the history of the home. The certificate would be nicely framed. Jack said that the other portion of their meeting focused on possible Ebay purchases of Eliot related artifacts for the Historical Society. He said that our group experts on that subject would be Roseanne Adams and Eric Christian. They might have the approval to purchase up to a \$100 with out going back to the committee. Also it would be important to check with Julie Johnson or her committee to be sure that we didn’t already have the item. We want to avoid any duplication. There was more discussion by the members. Denny said that there was a lot more to it than we believed in the beginning. They had discussed should modern conveniences be allowed as long as the appearance is the same. He suggested that we digest and massage the ideas before firming up the rules. Roseanne mentioned that perhaps the award might go to more than just homes. It could be some other kind of building.

New Business

Denny seemed pleased to read a letter from the Eliot Board of Selectmen and signed by the Chairman, Roland Fernald. The Board of Selectmen voted to have Eliot participate in a “Then and Now Photo Contest” sponsored by the Maine Municipal Association. The letter asked if the Eliot Historical Society would want to take this fun project on behalf of the town. Denny then explained that one could take a picture taken by 1970 or before and take a picture of the same place today. He has all the

information for those who are interested. Winners would be put on the Maine Municipal Calendar. The deadline for entries must be submitted by June 12th.

Denny thanked Sally and Fran Hartford for the night's refreshments. He then closed the business meeting and called upon Carol Zamarchi to introduce the program.

Carol then introduced Keith Searles. Carol said that Keith has a large post card collection and she asked him how long he has been collecting. He said about 40 years. He was doing construction further north in NH when he met a couple, the Brandes. The husband had the largest post card collection in the United States with over 600,000. Until after World War I there were no cards made in the states. They were all made in Germany. Keith said he helped sort Mr. Brandes postcards. He knows that now many of those cards are in museums. The gentleman had Alzheimer's disease so the collection was sold to another gentleman. They had to be moved by a trailer truck. Keith talked about the display he had set up. He showed how some of the cards would light up when lit from behind. When asked he said that whether the cards had been stamped and mailed or hadn't did not effect the value of the postcard. Keith was happy to answer questions from the members and invited them to check out his display.

Sally and Fran Hartford then served refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Hansen, Secretary