

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
8 March 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Frank Dodge, Lois Frey, Duncan Hastings, Linda Jones, Jane Marshall, Dean West, Alice Whiting. Regrets: Tom Carney. Absent: Jessyca West
Guests: Barbara Dodge, Jack & Melanie Dennis, Aggie West.

Linda Jones called the meeting to order at 9 AM. The agenda was reviewed with no adjustments and/or additions.

The minutes of 8 February 2017 were approved with one correction, the change of folks to forks: *Bill Perkins donated two forks from the rubble when the Congregational Church burned.*

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's Report in the absence of Tom Carney. However, since several bills needed to be processed, those present approved the expenditures with the proviso that the Safetek bill be held until the system is satisfactorily completed with approval granted to pay at that time. Motion made, seconded and approved. Dean will follow-up with Tom.

Budget Report: No budget report.

Administrative items:

*The April 2017 Open House schedule: April 2-Lois; April 6-Dean; April 9-Duncan; April 13-Tom; April 16-Closed; April 20-Linda; April 23-Linda; April 27-Lois; April 30-Dick Simays. Also opened by appointment.

*Insurance Policy: Following discussion, Duncan volunteered to follow-up with Brian Story with questions about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' (our policy holder) options for valuing historic collections and art work.

Building Committee Report: Dean anticipates the Safetek visit on Thursday, March 9th will complete the installation and final check-off for the security system.

Fundraising Report:

*Membership: Alice reported there have been 50 responses to the January membership mailing.

*Building Fund Committee: Alice reported that the recently donated Eric Tobin painting will be raffled starting May first.

Program/Projects:

*Art Raffle: Following discussion it was agreed that the tickets for the Eric Tobin painting should sell for a minimum of \$10 each. The Building Fund Committee plans to run the sale from May first through October 15th. Folks at Town Meeting were enthusiastic about the upcoming raffle.

*Town Meeting Follow-up: The pie for breakfast was well received. Lois reported depositing \$331.52 (\$318 pie & cake

sales & 13.52 tips) with Rosemary.

*Johnson/JSC documentary: Linda is still awaiting the final products from both projects.

*Bee Keeping in Johnson: Dean reported he had information from the VT Beekeepers Association, which he would share with Jack Dennis. Jack will continue on his project. Jack and Melanie also mentioned a potential fundraising opportunity by selling citrus fruit from a grove that works with schools.

Acquisitions:

*Chuck Conger donated a painting of Lt Governor C. H. Stearns by Georgia Balch.

*Chuck Conger donated an engraved C.H. Stearns Masonic sword and case.

*Marie Boissoneault donated a Charlotte Cole painting, which had been won by her husband, Maurice in a Fire Department raffle.

*Linda Jones donated a *Lamoille Country Cupboard Cookbook 1976/1979*.

*Jane Draper donated a postcard by artist Veenfliet (circa 1910-20) found in the wall of the old Andrus House. Jane placed the stamp as 1908-09 and the postmark is 1912.

*Doug Molde donated a light fixture, which originally hung in the Johnson Railroad Station. Donald Blais verified the authenticity of the fixture, which has been hanging in Doug's Law Office on School Street for a number of years.

*Alice Whiting donated a copy of the Oread Literary Club Book for 1967-1968.

*Alice Whiting donated a Napoli's Furniture invoice.

*Mary Ellen Herold, on behalf of her father Robert Herold, donated a Georgia Balch painting from of the Swiss Alps, which was a wedding gift to Robert and Dawn.

Future Planning:

*It was suggested that an April program might be a talk about the importance of the St Johnsbury and Lamoille Railroad to Johnson. A potential speaker identified is Steve Leach. Linda will follow-up.

*A History of Agriculture in Johnson, developed by a volunteer or a student would be a valued addition to the JHS collection.

*Establishing a Johnson Cellar Hole Walk could be a complementary project to the history of agriculture since many cellar holes are located on or near old farms.

**What Used to Be* or *Rocking Chair Circle* are potential titles for Historical Society sponsored Open to the Public Chats.

*Melanie Dennis suggested that having a tape recording running during the Society's monthly meetings could generate some interesting stories with historical significance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next meeting is April 12, 2017.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary