

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting on April 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Frank Dodge, Tom Carney, Lois Frey, Duncan Hastings, Jane Marshall, Dean West, Alice Whiting. Regrets: Linda Jones. Absent: Jessyca West.

Guests: Barbara Dodge, Aggie West, Dick Simays, and Jack & Melanie Dennis (at 9:30 a.m.)

Dean West called the meeting to order at 9 AM. The agenda was reviewed with two additions.

The minutes of 15 March 2017 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: \$22,455.66

Budget Report:

*Tom Carney reported that payment for the Safetek security alarm is on hold pending set-up to the Sheriff's Department dispatch system.

*It was clarified that all expenses related to the JHS, Inc. raffle should be paid from the JHS, Inc. budget.

*All agreed that restoration of the Georgia Balch yarn painting which has been donated to the Historical Society collection will be paid by the JHS restoration fund (about \$200.)

*To better understand the budget, Duncan Hastings suggested that a budget memo could be entered with each donation to clarify the source of the funds. Additionally a separate line item for Tuesday Night Live Revenue (50-6-40-00.06) would be helpful. Tom will check-in with Rosemary to initiate the addition.

*Following discussion **it was moved, seconded and passed to reallocate the balance of the wall map restoration project to purchase an appropriate lighting fixture to illuminate the map.** Dean will follow-up.

Administrative items:

*May 2017 Open House Schedule: May 4 -Alice; May 7-Dean; May 11-Lois; May 14- Lois; May 18-Tom; May 21-Duncan; May 25-Dick Simays and May 28-Ed Raymond & Lynn Sibley (to be confirmed.) Holcomb House is also opened by appointment.

*Holcomb House Reminders: Lois Frey reminded all that the spare toilet tissue is located in the round receptacle in the bathroom.

Tom reminded all when exiting the building NOT to lock the lower knob, just use the dead bolt lock with your key from the exterior.

*Update Insurance Policy: Duncan conferred with the VT League of Cities & Towns and reported that insuring a historical collection is best done by using an agreed upon value, which has been determined and verified in writing by an appraiser. Jane Marshall volunteered to ask Mark and Ed at the Buggyman if they do insurance appraisals and if yes, what would it cost to appraise the JHS collection. If no, George Pearlman will be asked for suggestions.

*Membership Renewal Due for VT Historical Society: All agreed to pay the \$50 VHS membership fee. Linda Jones will process.

*C.H. Stearns Painting Restoration: Dean reported that George Pearlman has looked at the C.H. Stearns portrait. George can clean and recover to protect the painting. All agreed that the cost to preserve the painting should come from the JHS restoration budget.

*Bread Oven Support Request: Jennifer Burton has proposed writing several grants to build a community brick oven. At a meeting of the Selectboard, the board gave their support in concept to the project by providing a letter of support for the project of building a brick oven to be located on Legion Field. Dean shared his concern that the Selectboard minutes reflect that the Historical Society would write a letter of support when we had not taken any action on the proposal. Without knowledge of the minutes being questioned, Duncan volunteered to check-in with Brian Story to get the specifics and clarify that JHS did not take an action on the oven project. Lois reported that she has spoken with Jennifer about the project several times but was not aware of the minutes being discussed. Subsequently the minutes in question were identified as the October 17, 2016. There was no action taken on the project at this meeting.

Building Committee Report

*Update on Security: Dean reported that Mike continues to try to coordinate with Heidi Patch at the Sheriff's Department with no success. Dean will contact Eben at the Sheriff's Department to get the information. If no results, JHS will consider contacting Home Security in Stowe.

*Dean has made an appointment for a site visit by Brian Story to discuss the driveway and the eave.

*Lois mentioned that the track lighting was very good for the wall exhibits, however adding overhead lighting could improve the illumination in each room. All agreed with Dean volunteering to ask Keith for an estimate when he installs the electrical outlet for the dehumidifier. He will also check with Needham Electric. Duncan suggested that support may be available through Efficiency Vermont.

*Aggie West suggested that a list of tasks or a procedural manual for maintaining the Holcomb House needs to be prepared and filed for reference when needed.

*Duncan requested approval to purchase the materials for the front steps project. With the dollars previously allocated, all agreed he could purchase materials for the project.

Fundraising Report:

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported that she has received 1 or 2 memberships.

*Building Fund Committee: Alice reported that Linda has ordered the raffle tickets, which will be sold for \$10 each with sale starting April 30th at the Holcomb House. Eric Tobin approved allowing the JHS, Inc. to photograph the donated picture for use with promotion. Lois reported that George Pearlman coordinated with Howard Romero, who provided an excellent photograph. Thank you to Howard.

Program/Projects:

- *Homeschool Visit on April 3rd: Fourteen youngsters and three adults participated in the program with Duncan discussing blacksmithing and Dean providing insights into everyday life in the early days. Some time was spent checking-out the historical collection.
- *Train Talk by Steve Leach - April 30th at 2 PM: Linda has arranged for Steve Leach to discuss railroading at the Open House on April 30th.
- *Ruth Mould Paintings & Exhibit: Alice reported that she and Linda have selected a number of Ruth Mould paintings, presently on exhibit at Johnson State College. Margo Warden will arrange a pick-up time for transfer to the Holcomb House.
- *Tuesday Night Live Planning: Lois reported that Tuesday Night Live will begin on July 4th with Christine Malcolm & Honey I'm Home. There will be nine concerts with the final session on August 29th. Dean said he will check with Daryl West to see if his trailer will be available again this summer.
- *Johnson/JSC documentary: No report.

Acquisition:

- *Dean and Marie Boissoneault received approval from the Johnson Elementary School Board to bring the school's trophy case and a Charlotte Cole painting to the Holcomb House after school closes in June. Dean plans to get the trophy case dimensions.
- *Duncan received a DVD from Ed Raymond and Lynn Sibley that their son made of an interview with Ken Weightman.
- *Duncan donated two bricks from the Dexter Whiting house, which is where Duncan now lives. The bricks are believed to be handmade in the vicinity of his home.
- *Aggie donated an antique glass washboard as did Lois.
- *Dawn Lehouillier Tatro has a photograph of Nina Hooper to add to our collection.
- *Melanie Dennis donated a number of Main Street photos taken in 2004.

Other Business:

- *Duncan made note of the dearth of blacksmith tools and suggested that donations of tools would be appreciated. Tom said there is a hand-forged chain in the storage area.
- *Jack Dennis offered to present a talk and book signing for his book, The Mouse and the Lemon Tree some Sunday afternoon. As time ran out, this needs to be a May agenda item.
- *Other agenda items for next month: restoration and overhead lighting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next meeting is May 10, 2017.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary