Johnson Historical Society Meeting Minutes
8 November 2017

Present: Dick Simays, Dean West, Duncan Hastings, Jane Marshall, Tom Carney, Alice Whiting, Linda Jones, & Lois Frey. Regrets: Frank Dodge. Guest: Aggie West.

Linda Jones called the meeting to order at 9 AM.
Agenda was reviewed with one addition, Facebook Report.

The minutes of 11 October 2017 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Carney reported a balance of $21,098.73

Budget Report:
*The 2018-19 proposed budget as developed by Linda, Dean, Duncan and Lois was reviewed. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the proposed budget and send it to the Selectboard.** Budget proposal is attached to minutes.
* Report from Duncan: Duncan met with Rosemary Audibert to clarify information about the Historical Society's financial status as the term of the mortgage obtained to purchase the Holcomb House is nearing an end. The upcoming JHS budget shows a $13,216.19 payment in the 2018-19 budget. That will cover the last six months of the loan. At that point, JHS will have paid $123,839.21 toward the mortgage and interest plus an initial payment of $52,000 toward the renovation expenses. Therefore, after the 2018 budget, the JHS contribution will be within ½ of our share of the cost to purchase and renovate.

Administrative items:
*Follow-up from Selectboard: Rather than forming a joint committee, the Selectboard has requested that JHS prepare a proposal about the future plans of the historical society, perhaps a 5 to 10 year strategic plan. It would provide a framework for what happens if the town wants to sell the building or the status of JHS changes. Dean and Duncan will revisit an earlier letter of agreement which was prepared by JHS but never signed by either party.

*Museum Archive Software Project: In progress as a winter project.

*Open House Host Schedule: The December schedule was set as follows:

| Sunday | Thursday |
|---|---|
| December 03–Dean West | December 07–Tom Carney |
| December 10–Lois Frey | December 14– Duncan Hastings |
| December 17–Linda Jones | December 21-Alice Whiting |
| December 24–Closed | December 28– Closed |
| December 31- Closed | |

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*Update on Merrill Appraisal & Insurance: Linda received an email from Merrill's stating the JHS art report will be ready the first of December.

*Google Street View-Matt Parker –Lois checked on the cost of participating in Google Street View project. The site Google.com (Johnson VT) shows one very old picture of the Holcomb House before the roof was painted. The minimum cost is $400 for five pictures. If Main Street gets on the project's calendar it might make sense to participate; but Johnson did not appear to be on the upcoming schedule. No action needed.

Building Committee Report

*Storage area follow-up: Following discussion **it was moved, seconded and approved to name the storage area the Carriage Room.**
Dean with help from Aggie completed painting the Carriage Room. Tom organized a work crew to move everything out of the Carriage Room, wash each item, and then move everything into appropriate locations including using the new shelving which has been installed. Thank you to the team of ten for completing the project. Dean plans to purchase new LED light bulbs to brighten the room. Dean is getting an estimate for the cost of cementing the back section of the room. Dean and Bruce White have a planed board for hanging harnesses and rakes etc. for display in that room.

*Lighting fixture follow-up: Dean was concerned that the cost for the second light in the West Room would be more than he anticipated. It was agreed by all that the outcome warranted the extra expense that might occur.

*Front yard repair & steps: No action.

*Shelves for basement storage: It was decided that the basement is too damp for storage; therefor, no shelving is needed.

Program/Projects:

*October 15th program: All agreed the Eric Tobin presentation was excellent and the music provided by Duncan (outdoors) and Roland and Gary Clark (indoors) added pizazz to the program.

*Jubilee – Buy Local program will be held on Friday, December 1st from 4 to 7:30 PM. Jane and Lois will host from 4 to 7:30 PM. Tom will join them from 4 to 5 PM. Others will stop in as schedules permit. Jane will read holiday stories throughout the evening. There will be hot apple cider and cookies.

*Ruth Mould paintings: Linda has received an email notification that the art appraisal will be ready on December first.

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*Johnson/JSC documentary: Expected date is the beginning of 2018.

*JHS role when town roads are being named: Duncan reported that Brian Story is working on an updated road ordinance which will delineate the role for the Historical Society.

Fundraising Report:
*Membership: Alice reported that 305 membership letters for 2018 have been prepared and mailed. They included 185 renewals, 30 lifetime members, and 90 requests to potential new members.
*Building Fund Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for November 15th at 8:30 AM at the Holcomb House.
*Art Raffle: Linda reported that 432 raffle tickets were sold for the Eric Tobin painting. Duncan reported that the winner, Asia Chandler was thrilled to have won.

Acquisitions:
*Sid and Marion Nichols donated two photos taken and framed by Sid of the former Waterman Bridge.
*Andrea Sargent donated a Charlotte Cole painting (floral) from the estate of David and Mary Sargent.
*Eric Osgood donated a package of news articles related to town business. He also contributed a 1942 newspaper with information about the war which he found in his attic.
*Linda, with a group of others, visited a portion of the Talc Mine property where they viewed what is believed to be the Loveland Cemetery. They found a hand-made spike peeve, a piece of rail from the mine, and a Robinson brick marked Drury (Essex.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next meeting: 12.13.2018.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary

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