

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting  
12 September 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Holcomb House

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

Linda called the meeting to order at 9 AM with a review of the agenda. There were several additions made to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from August 8 & 22, 2018 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of September 7, 2018, there is a balance of \$19,161.56 with a reserve fund balance of \$24,066.32.

Budget Report: Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to transfer the annual \$1,500 in lieu of rent payment to the town.**

Since no written adjustment has been received following Town Meeting budget reduction, it was agreed that Duncan will talk to Brian Story to clarify what the Selectboard did and how it impacts the Johnson Historical Society budget.

Administrative items:

\*October 2018 Holcomb House Host schedule:

<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
October 04: Tom Carney	October 07: Dean West
October 11: Linda Jones	October 14: Alice Whiting/Jane Marshall
October 18: Dick Simays	October 21: Duncan Hastings
October 25: Lois Frey	October: 28: Lynn Sibley

\*Recruiting Volunteers: An interview (Linda, Jane, & Lois) with Luciana and Tyler Swensen was satisfactory. Both have skills and enthusiasm for the newsletter project. A second potential volunteer did not show-up for her interview. Following discussion of the availability of Teen Challenge volunteers, Dean volunteered to check what services they offer to the community.

\*Newsletter Preparation: All agreed to ask Luciana and Tyler to develop a one-page newsletter with guidance as needed from the above committee.

\*Honorary membership: Following discussion, it was decided that Dean would draft a document with criteria and guidelines for a proposed honorary Johnson Historical Society membership. Future discussions will determine if a by-law change would be required.

\*Accessioning: Duncan reported that Professor Lisa Cline at NVU has a student who is interested in historical preservation including cataloging. Duncan is meeting with her following this meeting.

Building Committee Report:

\*Pressure washing Holcomb House exterior: Word from Brian Story is that the Highway Dept. may have time to do the job by the end of September. Duncan will follow-up.

\*Dean will order the appropriate stain to complete the rungs and railings project. Duncan has an airless sprayer for stain that he will lend when the work date is set.

\*Now that Duncan is back from traveling, he will put the finishing touches on the mudding and sanding project in the Carriage Room.

Program Projects:

- \*Strategic Planning session is set for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM at the Holcomb House.
- \*Tuesday Night Live – Thanks to an abundance of community support, the Historical Society has completed a very successful and enjoyable Tuesday Night Live season. The total income is \$5,268.61 less \$144.30 for expenses yielding total income for the JHS operating budget of \$5,124.56. Thank you to all!
- \*More TNL: As a follow-up to the August 8<sup>th</sup> discussion about the Department of Health's interpretation of H-715, Duncan volunteered to talk with our Lamoille legislative delegation to find out why the new rules established in that bill have not been promulgated as required by the bill, H-715.
- \*Vermont Studio Center Restoration of Buildings Program: Lois reported that Jim McDowell and Gary Clark will discuss "Preserving History: The Vermont Studio Center Campus Master Plan on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Lowe Lecture Hall at 2 PM. The presentation will include plenty of time for questions and comments. No audio-visual equipment will be needed. Refreshment will be served at the Holcomb House following the talk. The Holcomb House will be opened from 1 to 4 PM with Lynn Sibley on duty.
- \*Retired Teachers Program: Linda reported that the visit will begin at 10 AM on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Tom, Dick, Linda, and Alice plan to be available to assist.
- \*Future Program Planning: With additions to the JHS collection, it was decided to consider having a presentation with Dr. Rogers (TBE), one with Steve Engle on sewing machines (Fall), and one with Steve Leach discussing trains in May.

#### Fundraising Report:

- \*Alice reported that the two ski chairs raffle generated \$307 with the prize going to Melanie Dennis. Proceeds will benefit the Capital Campaign. She also reported that \$25,848.30 is needed to complete the Capital Campaign goal of \$300,000.

#### Acquisitions:

- \*On September 2, Tom and Dick picked up a number of medical items from Dr. Rogers including an examining table, a supply case, and other medical tools both large and small. He also donated some interesting medical books.
- \*Billy Hooper stopped by the Holcomb House with 23 boxes of 35 mm slides with pictures taken by his father, Red Hooper. He also brought a framed picture of Ken Hooper (who passed away at 12 years) and two postcards of him.
- \*Bill Perkins has donated JES class pictures from Helen Perkins (his mother.) Our Facebook editor, Barbara Backus used the pictures to pay tribute to Mrs. Perkins for her teaching and community service. Other items include a door-step milk box and a spike driver.
- \*Rhette LaRose donated a number of *Johnsonians* from the Johnson Alumni Association.
- \*Linda showed donated children's clothing items from Rebecca Crone as well as handmade gloves and a pocketbook.
- \*Bruce and Mary Beard donated a breadbox with old bottles and tins, a matchbook holder, a property appraisal from 1899 and many pictures.
- \*Bill Perkins will donate a baggage cart from the St. Johnsbury & Lamoille County Railroad.
- \*Deanna French donated a photo album with five generations past her grandmother, all people identified. Also a framed picture of Mary Flint Pike, an original copy of the History of Johnson by Mattie Baker, and the 1993 book by Patricia Belding, *One Less Woman A Vermont Murder: 1919*. The book is the story of Lucina Courser Broadwell, who was raised in Johnson.
- \*Duncan Hastings donated the book, *Inside the Museum Archive Software Project* by Jim Halpin.
- \*Dick Simays donated a collection of items from the Johnson Pharmacy including a C.P. Jones Prescription Book and several pill molds and utensils used to prepare prescriptions.

\*Responding to the Front Porch Forum request Betty Taylor donated two carousel 35 mm projectors. Thank you to Betty and the other five folks who responded to the JHS request.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next regular meeting will be at 9 AM on October 10th. Strategic planning meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary