

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
13 February 2019 at 1:30 PM at the Holcomb House

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

Dean called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM with a review of the agenda.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 9 January 2019 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported a checkbook balance of \$19,161.56 with a reserve fund balance of \$25,451.79. Report was accepted as presented.

Budget Report:

*JHS Membership results: Alice reported she received 77 responses to the membership letter with some donations designated for the Building Fund/Capital Campaign. There were 31 family, 13 individual, 5 senior memberships received.

*Lease agreement: No progress to date.

*Canopy for Tuesday Night Live: Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded & approved to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for a quality canopy to be used at Tuesday Night Live.** Tom with assistance from Dick will be in charge.

Administrative items:

* Holcomb House March 2019 Host schedule:

March 03: Dean West

March 10: Geoff Corey

March 17: Jane Marshall

March 24: Duncan Hastings

March 31: Lynn Sibley

March 07: Tom Carney

March 14: Lois Frey

March 21: Alice Whiting

March 28: Dick Simays

*Status municipal building lobby project: No report.

*Newsletter:

Duncan and Lois attended the January 14, 2019 Village Trustee meeting. The trustees agreed that once in a while if there is room a paragraph or so on the Historical Society could be included in the newsletter. They also agreed that when there is room the board can include an insert from the Johnson Historical Society not the Johnson Historical Society, Inc.

Following discussion Dean volunteered to check the cost and procedure for sending the newsletter to all Johnson residents via mail or newspaper insert.

*Honorary Board Member and Special Friend of JHS:

Lois shared an appreciation statement to use on a certificate for retiring JHS Trustees. It was accepted by all present. She will ask Rosemary for assistance finding an appropriate certificate template.

Dean elaborated on the Honorary or Special Member category: A person selected and voted on by the Board of Trustees by virtue of their extra-ordinary service and contributions to the Historical

Society. The person will be known as an honorary member and will have a lifetime membership with no further dues. It will require establishing criteria, a nomination process and an application form. Alice volunteered to draft the criteria. Individuals in both categories will be recognized in a JHS Acknowledgment Book.

*Strategic Planning: Strategic planning by the JHS trustees has stalled. It was suggested that having a facilitator to help with the process could be very helpful. Duncan volunteered to look into the cost and availability of a facilitator. Once we identify a facilitator we can focus the strategic planning to address our most pressing issues.

*Accessioning project: Lois reported that the project is moving along with Duncan, Kelly & Jacob Vandorn and Lois working every Monday from 9:30 AM to noon. A system has evolved that helps to keep the process moving. Additional help is welcome as there are specific tasks to be accomplished with the accessioning of each item. More volunteers could speed up the process.

Building Committee Report:

*Power wash for Holcomb House: At their January 21st meeting the Select Board responded to the power wash bids obtained by Dean West for their use but no specific action was taken. Duncan followed up at the January 28th Select Board meeting for clarification after the previous meeting. Discussion ensued but no action was taken.

*Status kitchen repair: No action to report.

*Status Carriage Room heat project. Brian Story is working on resolving the problem.

Programs/Projects

*Town Meeting pie sale. Lois reported that plans are underway to continue selling the slices of pie sale tradition at Town Meeting. Pie makers are being contacted. Set up will be at 8 AM on March 5th with the start of pie sales at 8:30 AM. Tom and Dick volunteered to help with set-up.

*Town Meeting Exhibit: It was decided that the pie table would be our exhibit this year.

*Raffle of Georgia Balch painting: The raffle will kick-off at Town Meeting. Kelly volunteered to ask two of her children, Kaeti and Colin to sell tickets. Tickets will be \$10 each. Alice will order them. Howard Romero has taken a picture which will be used for promotion.

*Potential Future Programs: Tom will invite Al Young to give a presentation about covered bridges in Vermont on a Sunday afternoon in April.

*Research Projects: It was decided that potential research projects could be 1) a history of Johnson's pharmacies, 2) a history of Johnson's physicians, and 3) the evolution of grocery shopping in Johnson. Creating a timeline for these topics could help to interest student researchers to think about the way it was in our town in the early days. Dean will be on duty at the Holcomb House on March 3rd and suggested he would start the physician timeline and would welcome others to join him with information.

Fundraising Report

*Alice reported the capital campaign fund is in need of \$2,878 to reach its goal.

Other

*Weathervane: Duncan reported the Vermont Studio Center talked with folks at the VT Division of Historical Preservation who have prepared a report about the weathervane at the Lowe Lecture Hall. It was agreed that the report with its recommendations should be emailed to the Select Board. It seems further action is not a JHS responsibility.

*Linda Jones Status: Lois reported that Linda is gaining her health back; although she still has a way to go. She asked to have a letter read at the meeting. In essence the letter stated her request to resign from the position of JHS President effective February 13, 2019. She will continue to serve as a trustee and volunteer for activities when she can. A motion was moved, seconded and approved: **With appreciation for Linda's contributions to the Historical Society since her election as President on January 10, 2007, the trustees reluctantly accept Linda's resignation.**

*Trustee resignation: Lois reported that Jane Marshall has advised the Select Board, the Town Administrator, and Linda that she wishes to resign as a JHS Trustee effective immediately. Jane will continue to serve as a volunteer working on projects like Town Meeting, Tuesday Night Live, and hosting at the Holcomb House. **All agreed a thank you for a job well-done was in order to Jane for being a JHS Trustee since June 2010 and volunteering for three years before her official appointment.**

*Trustee replacement process: There is a volunteer replacement process for municipal volunteer groups. When asked by Dean if she was interested in being a Board member, Kelly said yes. Lois explained that the process for municipal appointment asks candidates to advise the Select Board and the Chair of the volunteer group (in our case now Vice President, Dean) of their interest in being appointed. Based on Kelly's significant volunteer contributions to the Historical Society to date (work on accession project, baking cookies for events, attending Board meetings,) **it was moved, seconded and approved to have Dean submit a letter of support for Kelly once the process is initiated.**

*Art request: Having received an inquiry about a painting by Mildred "Dolly" Tinkham, Dean asked if anyone was aware of her paintings. Her work appeared to be quite good so it would be nice to find one of her pieces. Art detectives welcome.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next regular meeting will be on 13 March 2019 at 9 AM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary