

Johnson Historical Society - Monthly Meeting  
9 January 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Holcomb House

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

Dean called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked that the municipal building lobby project be addressed first since Lynda Hill was present.

\*Municipal Building Lobby Project: Lynda is working with approval from the Select Board to paint the lobby of the Municipal Building. She has volunteers to help with the clean-up and painting. Dean led the discussion by sharing with Lynda that the Historical Society would like to participate with her lobby project by identifying and helping to obtain a lockable display area for artifacts from the Society's collection. All agreed a new home was needed for the painted cow to make the space a better entry way. Following discussion some items that need attention include: 1) clarify the ownership of the cow (Duncan) to determine who has authority to make decisions about it. 2) Identify potential new owners for the cow. 3) Make a list of town groups (Lois) who might want display space in the lobby. 4) Find a secure, reasonably sized display cabinet (FPF, Restore) for use by the Historical Society. 5) Check if there is a way to improve the security in the lobby perhaps with a camera to record activity after hours. 6) Clarify with Rosemary the policy for posting official notices in the building and on the outdoor kiosk.

Secretary's Report: **The minutes from December 12, 2018 were approved as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported a checkbook balance of \$19,161.56 and a reserve fund balance of \$25,004.54. **The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.**

Budget Report:

\*Membership letter: Alice reported via email that the December membership letter has generated thirty-two responses to date, mostly renewals as well as two new 5 year memberships.

\*Status of proposed lease agreement: Dean and Duncan reported they have discussed the proposed lease agreement with Eric Osgood and Doug Molde. The Select Board will send it to the town attorney to ascertain if it is the appropriate instrument to address the concerns of the Historical Society. Dean and Duncan will follow-up.

Administrative items:

\*Holcomb House Host schedule:

February 03: Dean West

February 07: Tom Carney

February 10: Geoff Corey

February 14: Lois Frey

February 17: Duncan Hastings

February 21: Dick Simays

February 24: Lynn Sibley

February 28: Alice Whiting

The need for more volunteers generated a discussion with the result that Alice Whiting will be asked to bring the membership list which contains names of people who would like to volunteer to the February meeting.

\*Newsletter: Lois reported that volume 1: Issue 1 of the Historical Society's newsletter was mailed to the JHS membership list. Tyler Swenson is willing to do another newsletter; however he will not have time to do it before April first. Duncan followed up with the Village about inserting the newsletter in an upcoming monthly electric department mailing. The village trustees will discuss the proposal at their January 14, 2019. Lois will attend the meeting.

\* Webpage: Lois reported that Luciana Swenson has started to re-do the JHS webpage. She is developing a template that will improve the way information is displayed. It was suggested that the Vermont Historical Society webpage has two items on their This Place in History segments about Johnson that might be linked to the webpage. Thanks to Dean West for his work with Stephen Perkins on the two video clips.

\*Accessioning project: Lois reported that the accessioning committee will resume their cataloguing on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Volunteers are welcome to join the team.

\*Special Friends of JHS & Honorary JHS Member status: Dean will re-word his original proposal and bring it to the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Lois left at 11 AM.

#### Building Committee Report

\*Power wash bids for Holcomb House: Dean has received a bid for \$900 to pressure wash Holcomb House. Contractor will use bio-degradable, ecological friendly solutions. We are awaiting a second bid. The pressure washing will no doubt loosen old paint and hasten required painting of the trim. In addition, the old paint probably contains lead, so precautions will have to be taken for safety. Duncan will alert the Select Board. In addition, Dean will get estimates for trim painting.

\*Status Kitchen Repair: Not much progress to report on the kitchen repair. Eric from the Select Board said when he was at the Holcomb House, he noted there wasn't much visible damage to the floor. Duncan is concerned water is under the flooring, and could cause warping and other damage. Both Eric and Doug have said that further damage would not occur if the Historical Society was the sole tenant. Removing rust from the stove and touching it up with black paint before moving it back against the wall was discussed. Dean, Dick and Tom will work on that. In addition, Duncan will check the floor for damage.

\*Status Carriage Room heat project: No update on the carriage room heat. Duncan will check to see if it is listed on the Select Board's budget proposal.

#### Program/Projects:

\*Follow-up Dr. Rogers' presentation (12.16.2018): Dr. Roger's program was well received. Tom suggested Al Young may be able to do a future presentation about the covered bridges in Vermont. A bridge of special interest is located in Halifax.

\*Town Meeting: Discussion and decision about Historical Society participation at town meeting will take place at the February meeting.

\*Fundraising Report: No report.

\*Acquisitions: No report.

Dick moved to adjourn, Duncan 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Meeting minutes by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary and Kelly Vandorn