

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
13 November 2019 at the Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Dean West, Kelly Vandorn, Alice Whiting, Linda Jones, Duncan Hastings, Mary Jean Smith, Tom Carney (late) & Lois Frey. Guest: Aggie West.

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 9 October 2019 were approved with one correction, Keith Locke will be asked to complete the wiring in the Carriage Room.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly reported the JHS balance is \$25,369.94. Expenditures included \$926 for the Carriage Room heater and \$1,295 for the recent preservation project. **The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.** Kelly reminded all to email her when they spend JHS dollars to help her keep track of the budget.

Budget Report: In anticipation of preparing the FY2021 budget a committee was formed including Kelly, Dean, Duncan, and Dick. The proposed budget will be presented at the December 11th JHS meeting.

Administrative items:

*December 2019 House Host Schedule

Sunday	Thursday
01. Geoff Corey	05. Tom Carney
08. Alice Whiting	12. Dean West
15. Duncan Hastings	19. Dick Simays
22. Closed	26. Closed
29. Closed	

*Social media response to Brian Story: All had received and read the email from Brian Story. The JHS social media includes a Facebook page (administered by Barbara Backus with assistance from Linda Jones) and a webpage (administered by Grant Harper with assistance from Mary Jean Smith) with both accessed from the town of Johnson webpage. Also, Front Porch Forum is used by individual members to promote programs and activities. Most trustees have individual Facebook pages which may or may not be used to promote JHS information. **It was decided that response to Brian's inquiry would be by each individual.**

*Web page: Mary Jean reported she continues to work with Grant Harper. He will post the newsletters once they are sent to him. **Lois will send Grant the newsletters.**

*Strategic Planning Next Steps: Duncan reported he is receiving proposals from bidders. His deadline date is December 5, 2019. **Duncan will prepare a synopsis of each proposal for trustees to evaluate for selection of the most appropriate strategic planning facilitator** at our next meeting.

*Alarm system for Carriage Room: The system has been installed. There is a question about the synchronization in both places. The Building Committee will check it out after the meeting and follow up as needed.

*2019 Annual Report preparation: Highlights of the year including reaching our fundraising goal, hidden treasures at the Holcomb House using photographs, reminding readers to check the newsletters, webpage, Facebook page could be used to create a less-wordy report.

Building Committee Report

*Building Use Agreement Discussion: Duncan and Dean continue their task.

*Carriage Room Update: 1) Dean is working on getting an electrician to complete the wiring. 2) With heat in the room the sanding and painting can be tackled anytime. 3) There is sufficient space at Parker and Stearns to store the collectibles that have been behind the building.

*Knox Box: Dean reported the Knox Box has arrived. It was suggested that Brian Story be asked to include the two apartment keys in the Knox Box as well as the JHS key. **Tom and Dean are constructing the Call List for the Fire Department.**

Program/Projects:

* The Jubilee is scheduled for December 6th from 4 to 7 PM. The Holcomb House will be opened for visitors with Mary Jean doing the *around the tree readings*. She will ask Carolyn Smith to help her. Volunteer cookie bakers are Linda, Alice, Aggie, and Kelly. Lois will provide the spiced apple cider. Dick, Linda and Lois will cover the hosting duties.

* There will be no other program in December.

*Trail Building Project is on a temporary hold as Walter Pomroy has stepped down from his leadership role. Other volunteers are following-up.

*Road naming: The question was asked – Should the JHS take a more active role in naming the roads in Johnson? Earlier requests by the Select Board had no clear role for the JHS Trustees. The need for participation was created with the adoption of the 911 road naming ordinance. It was decided that JHS trustees should draft our role statement and submit it to the Select Board. **Duncan will chair the committee with Mary Jean, Lois and Tom.**

*Sunday Talks: What's Next: The program *to do* list includes: 1) The Red Hooper slide show is not ready yet; but it is anticipated that a larger venue (maybe Lowe Lecture Hall) will be needed so Spring would be a good time for it. 2) Dean received a request from the Elementary School to conduct a historical walk in the village. Someone from the school will follow-up with him. 3) Highlight hidden treasures at the Holcomb House. 4) Johnson Schools. **It was decided to have a committee to establish a program schedule, chaired by Alice with Kelly and Linda.**

Fundraising Report:

*Alice reported the 2019 member letter has been prepared & mailed by Alice, Linda and Lois.

Acquisitions

*Bill Perkins contributed 1) a photograph of Johnson Elementary School teachers, 2) three talc mill sample bags, and 3) package of choice talc-pieces with powder.

*Bill Davis donated a genealogy citation from the Solomon Davis book that goes with the Merle Davis diploma (in our collection.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary