

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
13 March 2019 at 9:00 AM at the Holcomb House

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

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The agenda was reviewed with several items being added: a resignation, election of officers, security system for carriage room.

Secretary's Report: **The meeting minutes from 13 February 2019 were approved as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Tom Carney reported a balance of \$25,856.05 with \$19,161.57 in the reserve fund. **The report was approved as presented.**

Budget Report:

Membership Secretary Alice Whiting reported one new 5-year membership. There are 72 general memberships (individual & family) plus four business memberships. The actual number of members exceeds 100. Duncan Hastings suggested that expanding the information about memberships could be improved. He volunteered to work with the Town (webpage and Facebook), Johnson Works (Kyle Nuse), and Front Porch Forum. Also information could be added to the JHS Facebook page. Duncan, Alice & Lois will write a marketing piece. It was also suggested that membership forms could be placed on the sign-in table at the Holcomb House.

Administrative items:

*April 2019 House Host schedule:

April 04	Tom Carney	April 07	Dean West
April 11	Lois Frey	April 14	Duncan Hastings
April 18	Dick Simays	April 21	Closed
April 25	Alice Whiting	April 28	Lynn Sibley

*Newsletter: Dean West sent a report which compares the U.S. Postal Service versus the News and Citizen insert for mailing the JHS newsletter. The cost from the U.S. Postal Service is 18 cents each, folded in ½ with space on each piece for putting the mail info. The cost from the News and Citizen for inserting an item in the newspaper is 7 cents each for the 1,497 citizens in the 05656 zip code. All must receive the mailing. Three weeks in advance notification must be given and the inserts need to be delivered to Stowe for transport to NH for insertion when the paper is printed.

*The Old and New Sale topic was moved so that Aggie could report. Aggie shared the concept for an upcoming sale which she will organize and run because she feels obligated to use items that were donated to JHS but not used in the previous silent auction. Trustees and a few other folks will be invited to participate with their own items to sell. A percentage of the sales will go to the seller and the balance to the JHS Building Fund. The selected date is May 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM. Trustees suggested that setting up at the Municipal Building (indoors and outside) might give the sale more visibility, better parking, and more space in case of rain. Also the former Catholic Church was mentioned for this one day event. Aggie plans to check both

options. The Holcomb House is available but may not be the best option. Aggie already has some volunteers lined up to help. Following discussion, **the Trustees approved the concept for the Old and New Sale.**

*Report from the Select Board: Duncan and Dean met with the Eric Osgood and Doug Molde to discuss the future of the Holcomb House. Active fundraising continues. JHS has paid 57% of the total cost to date. The JHS Trustees continue to want a use agreement with the Town.

*Honorary Member & Special Friend of JHS: As requested Lois Frey checked with Rosemary for a template for the certificates. Rosemary suggested that the WORD program was the best. Lois does not have that on her home computer so will see what the Holcomb House computer can do and have them ready by the April meeting. Alice presented proposed criteria for selecting honorary members, which were distributed to all for review and action at the April meeting.

*Strategic Planning: Duncan reported that he requested approval from the Select Board to apply for a grant to hire a facilitator to help JHS Trustees with strategic planning. He is researching the cost and availability of facilitators. The process is moving along.

*Request from Dean – Prepare to discuss status of JHS at April meeting: It was suggested that the status of JHS will require more time than available at a monthly meeting. **It was decided to schedule a three hour session on April 24, 2019 from 9 AM to noon dedicated to JHS's future.**

*Resignation: Dick read a resignation letter from Frank Dodge who is stepping down due to caregiving responsibilities. **Frank's resignation was accepted with regret and sincere appreciation for his contributions to the Johnson Historical Society, serving as a Trustee from the beginning January 10, 2007 to March 13, 2019.**

*Replacement of Trustee. With acting President Dean West not being available until later next week, Lois was asked to contact Brian Story and/or Eric Osgood to get a list of applicants based on Brian Story's recent Front Porch Forum post. **The trustees deferred a decision until the April meeting.**

*Election of Officers: **It was decided to conduct the election of officers at the April meeting.**

Building Committee Report

* Power wash project for Holcomb House: No progress

* Status kitchen repair: Duncan will request a status report for the April meeting. If the town is not filling an insurance claim, then the damaged ceiling tiles could be moved to the town's dumpster.

*Status Carriage Room heat project: No progress

*Security system for Carriage Room: It was decided that once the room is being used for more than storage, an addition to the present security system might be workable.

Program/Projects:

*Town Meeting pie sale wrap up: Lois reported that the income from pie sales was \$445 thanks to all the volunteers who made pies and a cake.

2) Raffle of Georgia Balch painting: Alice reported that volunteers Kaeti and Colin Vandorn sold 21 raffle tickets at Town Meeting. Tickets at \$10 each are available from Trustees and at the Holcomb House (where the painting is hung) during regular hours (Thursdays 9 AM – noon and

Sundays (1 to 4 PM.) Tickets will be sold until the final Tuesday Night Live 2019 concert when the drawing will take place.

*April Program: As previously discussed, Linda is checking with Steve Leach on his availability for Sunday, April 28th. (Follow-up note: The date has been confirmed.)

Fundraising Report

*Alice reported that the Capital Campaign is short by \$2,593. The Building Fund Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 20th.

Acquisitions :

*No acquisitions this month; however Duncan reported that the accessioning team has made 109 entries into the data-base. Most entries represent multiple items.

*Also Lois shared a picture requesting help with identifying the item. Additional pictures are in the email on the JHS computer in the office. Responses welcome.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary