

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
10 April 2019 at 9:00 AM at the Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Tom Carney, Duncan Hastings, Alice Whiting, Linda Jones, Dean West, Kelly Vandorn, and Lois Frey. Guests: Aggie West, Mary Jean Smith

Dean West called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The agenda was reviewed with one addition being made to consider a process for conserving some of the Society's collection. Also it was decided to move the election of JHS officers to the beginning of the administrative items.

Secretary's Report: **The meeting minutes from 11 March 2019 were approved as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Tom Carney reported a balance of \$26,156.02 with \$19,161.57 in the reserve fund. **The report was approved as presented.**

Budget Report:

*Membership: Duncan Hastings reported that with Alice Whiting and Lois Frey an information piece about membership was written. (attached to minutes.) He has sent it to Susan Tinker for the Town webpage, Kyle Nuse at Johnson Works, and Front Porch Forum. This information could be added to the JHS Facebook and webpages. Membership forms have been placed on the sign-in table at the Holcomb House.

*Canopy Purchase: Tom reported that he and Dick Simays have checked out what will work best and will go ahead and make the purchase.

Administrative items:

*2019 House Host schedule:

Thursday May 02 Tom Carney	Sunday May 05 Dean West
Thursday May 09 Lois Frey	Sunday May 12 Duncan Hastings
Thursday May 16 Linda Jones	Sunday May 19 Geoff Corey
Thursday May 23 Dick Simays	Sunday May 26 Lynn Sibley
Thursday May 30 Alice Whiting	

*Election of Officers: Following discussion about the responsibilities of each office, **the Trustees unanimously voted to have officers serve one year terms and elected the following: President, Dick Simays; Vice President, Tom Carney; Membership Secretary, Alice Whiting; Recording Secretary, Lois Frey; and Treasurer, Kelly Vandorn.**

*The previous discussion generated the need for a bylaw review and perhaps an update. A committee of Dean, Duncan, and Lois will prepare information for the May meeting.

*Trustee vacancy: Dean recommended and all agreed to send a letter of support to the Select Board asking them to appoint Mary Jean Smith a trustee to fill the one vacancy on the JHS Board. Mary Jean was part of JHS's founding group and has been a supporter since it was organized. She has continued her interest in its mission and she makes delicious pies. **It was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Dean to prepare and submit a letter by Monday, April 14 endorsing the appointment of Mary Jean Smith.**

*Honorary Member and Special Friend criteria: Responding to Alice's draft document to recognize Honorary Board Members of the Johnson Historical Society, clarification and suggested changes to the criteria were offered. The Secretary will send her notes to Alice, who will bring the revised copy to the May meeting. Lois will do the same for the criteria of the special friend of JHS category.

*Strategic Planning: a) The framework for the Strategic Planning session on April 24th from 9 AM to noon will focus on identifying the pros and cons for a town entity Historical Society or a non-profit corporation Historical Society. How do we want to operate for the next few to ten years? b) Duncan has sent requests to five companies requesting estimates for facilitation. Three have responded so far. Once the information is available he will apply for the grant.

*Conserving books: The accessioning group has identified several very old publications that should be professionally conserved. The town has an on-going conserving project for the official files. It was the consensus of the board that artifact restoration should begin with selection of items to be handled by the accessioning committee. Lois will check with Rosemary Audibert to get a sense of cost and to learn what timetable she uses annually. The present JHS budget has \$1,935 that could be used for artifact restoration projects.

*Newsletter: As the time for the next newsletter is here, it was decided that a communication committee should be added to the JHS Committees. Mary Jean volunteered to help with communication including the newsletter.

Building Committee Report

* Power wash project for Holcomb House: Duncan will send an email to Brian Story and Eric Osgood for requesting information on how to make it happen.

* Status kitchen repair: Duncan will request a status report for the May meeting.

*Creating a Task List: Lois mentioned that there are many tasks that could be put on a list for House Hosts and others to work on when at the Holcomb House. Some are listed on the host's job description (dusting which always can be done) but some items might need timely attention. For instance Dean said the rain gutters need to be cleaned. Tom said he would ask Don Garrett to handle that task. Lois and Kelly will work on developing a task list.

Program/Projects

*Steve Leach will deliver a Train Talk on April 28th at 2 PM. He will talk about his experiences on the railroad, bringing some tools that were used on the tracks. He will also highlight some of the people from Johnson who worked for the railroad. Alice, Aggie, Kelly and Mary Jean volunteered to make cookies and Lois will get the drinks.

*The Old and New Sale: Aggie continues to organize the sale which will be held May 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Masonic Temple. Aggie has some volunteers lined up to help with shifts from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 12:30 to 3:30 PM. She plans to set up tables on Friday, May 17th with vendors invited to do the same between 4 and 7 PM. Aggie has made and displayed some posters. Tom volunteered to transport any needed tables on Friday. Lois will get the JHS money box to Aggie. Vendors may rent tables for \$30 each by contacting Aggie at 635-7431.

*Tuesday Night Live: The organizers of Tuesday Night Live will be changing this year. Lois suggested that reading the Select Board minutes is a good source of information for what is happening. Some meetings are available via You Tube, also on the town's website.

*A New Project: When sharing his decision to give up serving as Vice President of the Historical Society, Dean announced he is working on an update of the History of Johnson book. He plans to cover 1961 to 2018 covering stages of changes in our community. He noted the significance of ending in 2018 being that is also the first year that Johnson does not have a school in town. He hopes to have it completed by September when a JHS program might be a panel discussion with Dean, Alice, Mary Jean, and Linda.

Acquisitions

*No acquisitions this month.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary