

Johnson Historical Society Special Meeting
9 September 2020 at 9AM
Old Mill Park Pavilion

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

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

Following review of the agenda Duncan Hastings requested the addition of a discussion about a trail head proposal.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 22 July 2020 were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a balance of \$20,179.04. There were \$530.69 for expenses and \$50 in income from the sale of the **Images of America Johnson** book.

Budget Discussion:

- 1) Membership renewal to the Vermont Historical Society request was received. **It was moved, seconded and approved to pay the \$50 membership fee.** Kelly will process.
- 2) Dick reported that he has not received any responses to his emails about the JHS fund balance and now realizes his emails are not being received by the town. He has sent a letter, which Duncan resent to the Selectboard and staff on 9/09/2020. Perhaps there will be results for the next meeting.
- 3) Duncan reported the results of his research about purchasing a disinfectant fogger for the Holcomb House. With approved disinfectants that kill the virus on contact a hand-held fogger might be a good way to disinfect the building and its contents. While the town will likely use larger equipment, he thinks a hand held fogger can be purchased for under \$500 and would serve our purposes. With agreement from all, Duncan will pursue further.

Election of Officers:

Dick pointed out that the annual election of officers would have occurred at the May 2020. Lois Frey reminded folks that before the Covid-19 shut-down a committee of Duncan, Dean West, and Lois was appointed to review the by-laws and to recommend a process for electing the officers, which is not presently contained in any JHS documents. The task slipped through the cracks and did not happen. **It was moved, seconded and approved to continue with the present slate of officers until May 2021.**

Administration:

- 1) Duncan shared a request from Doug Molde who is working with a former Johnson resident who wants to fund an appropriate memorial to her late husband who enjoyed time spent on the rail trail. They are thinking of an expansion of the trail head building at Old Mill Park, which might include some historical pictures at the enhanced trail head building. Would the Historical Society consider creating appropriate materials? All present agreed it would be a very good project to create a photo montage showcasing some history of the area. Duncan will respond to Doug.
- 2) The question of meeting at the Holcomb House and/or opening the facility was discussed. The pandemic guidance for the town comes from the Town Emergency Management Committee. As a volunteer committee of the town following their recommendations makes

sense. Lois Frey suggested that before opening the Holcomb House, a deep-clean of the Historical Society's space would be appreciated by trustees. All agreed and suggestions for who could do the task were made with Kelly, Duncan and Alice Whiting each agreeing to get cost estimates and availability for their recommendations.

Strategic Planning Update:

All agreed that the follow-up session should be in-person at a space large enough to meet the space requirements for 25 people. If the Municipal Building is not available, the United Church would be an excellent option. Alice volunteered to check if that was a possibility. Duncan will follow-up with Jane Van Buren of Noonmark Consulting.

Covid-19 status:

The town continues to follow emergency management protocols so the Historical Society does also.

Building Committee Report:

Tom Carney reported on his actions when the security alarm recently sounded and he was contacted by the Sheriff's Department. Tom found that nothing was disturbed. He called and thanked the Sheriff's Department and contacted SafeTek to request a site visit. He met with their representative, checked out the system and found a bad battery to be the culprit. With that fixed the building was again fully secured. Following a brief discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Tom to purchase some spare batteries.**

Fundraising report:

With no Tuesday Night Live during the summer, the Historical Society will not be able to generate the 5,000 dollars generally raised at that event for its operating funds. Creative ideas will be welcomed for consideration. Alice mentioned the membership letter, usually mailed in November as one source of funds. She will check with Rosemary to see if the Municipal Office could be used by the membership committee (Alice, Linda & Lois.) Linda Jones suggested the newsletter could be prepared and mailed with the membership letter. The committee will work on both.

Acquisitions:

- 1) Mary Jean Smith shared a photo of a heavy-duty drill which was used by the town road crew for many years while owned by Hubert Beard at his store. When the store closed Steve purchased the drill for the town. He will donate it to JHS if it is wanted. All agreed it would be a good addition to the collections.
- 2) Alice has a number of items which she is donating to the collection including a Fall foliage tee-shirt, a JHS 1934 Seniors scroll, JHS 1934 & 1938 commencement program, a 1912 postcard, a Church of the Nazarene Fall Festival program, 1892 catalog and 1898-99 from the Normal School, a Walkers Guide to Johnson and more. Tom volunteered to take Alice's bag of materials to the Holcomb House.
- 3) Mary Jean will follow-up with Pat and Mike French who have photographs to donate.
- 4) Tom has some old corn cobs donated by Jane Draper to add to our popcorn collection.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 9 AM.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary