

Johnson Historical Society Meeting Minutes

13 April 2016 - 9 AM at the Dr. Holcomb House

Present: Linda Jones, Tom Carney, Alice Whiting, Duncan Hastings, Dean West & Lois Frey.
Regrets: Jane Marshall, Jessyca West, Frank Dodge. Guest: Aggie West. Bob & Betty Sweetser (9:15-9:30 AM.)

Linda Jones called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

The agenda was reviewed with the addition of three items: VT History Expo, front door lock, and Johnson Works.

The minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Carney reported a balance of \$13,734.23.

Budget Report: The printer has been purchased and the payment is moving through the system.

Building Committee Report:

What's happening on site?

*A team from SunCommon has looked at the roof of the Dr. Holcomb House as part of a potential proposal for solar energy.

*Due to the weak structure of the front door lock system, **it was moved, seconded and approved to purchase and install a dead bolt on the front door.**

Clean Out-Clean Up Schedule

*Tom has a list of 8-10 volunteers who help with the task of clearing out the storage area to organize the space by building shelving, storage space and setting up the space for a work area and some exhibit space as soon as the weather improves enough.

Action Items:

*Membership dues for Vermont Historical Society: **It was moved, seconded and approved to pay \$50 for Vermont Historical Society membership.**

*In-coming Telephone response system: Tom anticipated getting the directions for the answering system on the telephone. Until then, members are asked to check for telephone calls when at the Holcomb House and log-in any response to a caller.

Fundraising Report:

Membership: Alice Whiting reported one new membership and a \$250 donation designated for the operating budget.

Building Fund Committee: Work continues on the brochure with Howard Romero scheduled to take some interior pictures using professional lighting on April 13th.

Program/Project Follow-up:

*Funding for front steps: Duncan Hastings made initial contact with Lea and will follow-up.

*Telephone answering system: Tom and Duncan will follow-up.

*Webpage www.johnsonhistoricalsociety.org: Jessyca West will serve as the Society's webmaster. Jessyca and Lois Frey met with Elisa Clancy from 3W Promotions for training. Jessyca will do the monthly maintenance check and add content as appropriate. Duncan suggested that the JHS webpage could be linked to the Town's webpage and the Johnson Connect webpage. Lois will check with Susan Tinker and Lea Kilvadyova respectively.

*Shelves for display cases: Duncan has started the project and will complete soon now that he has returned to Vermont.

Acquisitions:

*Bob and Betty Sweetser attended the meeting to deliver two original paintings and the military uniform worn by Lois Beard while serving in the Navy during World War II. Appreciation was extended by all for the donation.

*Marilyn Emery shared pictures with Linda from her extensive family collection. Linda made copies of about 50 photos, one being the Hillside School with student, Farnum and his mother Ethel in the sleigh.

*Jeff Roemers sent Linda a PDF file of the Cristy family which includes 3 generations who lived in Johnson.

*Dean West has the loan of a small trailer from Daryl West for storage during the TNL season.

What's next?

*Linda reminded all that the Vermont History Expo will be held on June 18 & 19, 2016 at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds. The theme this year is *The Power of Water in Vermont History*. Those present brainstormed ideas for the display which will be put together on Wednesday, June 1st at 9 AM at the Holcomb House. With the Water & Light Department being established in 1895, the plan is to build an exhibit featuring that department and the businesses that were helped due to its creation. Ideas and pictures should be given to Linda. Lois will arrange for the panel boards from Sue Lovering.

*Linda reported from her participation at Johnson Works. Plans are being developed for a Customer Appreciation Day by the Sterling Market in late August 2016 when the Johnson State College students arrive on campus. Those present agreed she should coordinate with others for the Historical Society to offer a walking tour from the Dr. Holcomb House to the Sterling Market. A suggestion was made to partner with others to date the buildings and apply plaques to each, perhaps a project for the future.

*Duncan reported that he has information to produce professional grade print publishing services books using a PDF file system. It might be used to reproduce the early *History of Johnson (1907)*. Check Ingram Spark for more information.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned. Next meeting is May 11th at 9 AM. Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary