

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
7 May 2014 at the Holcomb House at 10 AM

Present: Linda Jones, Jane Marshall, Dean West, Tom Carney, Alice Whiting, Frank Dodge, & Lois Frey. Regrets: Jessyca West. Absent: Howard Romero. Guest: Aggie West.

Linda Jones called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the meeting minutes from April 9, 2014 as printed.

Treasurer Tom Carney had no report as Rosemary Audibert had a day off.

It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize the Treasurer to process a check for \$50 to the Vermont Historical Society to renew the Society's membership in the state organization.

Linda reported on the historical items she picked up from William Mehlman, grandson of Frederick Mehlman . Frederick was a nephew of W. E. Tracy. She only brought a small portion of the collection of letters with her on the airplane as William will deliver the rest in June. The earliest date so far is 1840. He will also bring Bill Tracy's sign which directed clients to his upstairs office and tools belonging to his grandfather, Millage.

She also reported that Bruce & Mary Beard loaned the society four tins that Evelyn Ellsworth used to share cookies and pies, a crock, a picture of Floyd & Evelyn, a picture of their house, three Sterling Trust passbooks, two little change purses, deeds, and three old playing cards found between the petitions.

Also Jollie Parker donated a write-up on Harry & Everett Parker's father from a copy of *Famous Men of VT*.

Alice Whiting shared a picture that Steve Towne received from the estate of Harold Putnam of the Edelweiss Building circa 1936. Thank you Steve.

Lois Frey reported that Mark at the Buggyman donated the following papers: Ila Tillotson's January 1933, *The Johnsonian*; *The Birthday Calendar, 1930, Junior-Senior High School*, Johnson, Vermont; programs for Johnson High School Commencements 1931, 1933 (includes invitation) and 1934; and a daily work ticket for Thomas J. McGovern, Refrigeration & Dairy Service. It was decided that the daily work ticket was from Cambridge so it was decided to send that item to their Historical Society.

Chuck Conger invited Linda and Dean to visit anytime to check-out the pictures he has found. They will also ask about Georgia Balch art. There may be some items for our VT History Expo exhibit. Alice has a very rare yarn art piece by Georgia Balch that she may loan to us for the VT History Expo exhibit.

Dean reported for the Building Committee. All the lighting and outlets (except the bathroom) have been installed on the main floor. The basement sump pump has been rewired. The Dr. Holcomb door has been refurbished by Dean and is ready to be installed by Brian Currier. Paul Dube will install the chimney liner and fix the top of the chimney on May 21st.

Doug Williams is still recovering from his back injury but plans to be at the Building Committee meeting on Monday, May 12th to work through the bidding process.

Linda reported that the 501C3 designation is still pending with the IRS. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to check-in with JoAnn Benford and with her agreement contact the Congressional delegation through their staff in Burlington requesting assistance with securing the 501C3 designation.** Linda will initiate the contact with JoAnn.

Tom Carney reported that the stored car has been pick-up by its owner. Space is now available in the garage for storage of some larger items being donated. Debbie Gillen is anxious to move the milk equipment and wringer washing machine (formerly at the Holmes Farm) from her property to the Historical Society's property.

Locks on the doors have been retooled and Dean has the keys at the Dr. Holcomb House. Society members may sign-out a key and one will be left at the Town Clerk's Office. Maintaining a key-log will be very important for the security of the building.

Alice reported that the fundraising committee has met three times and is making progress. Peggy Williams, now retired President of Ithaca College has agreed to help the committee. Alice distributed for review a case statement developed for the fundraising committee. Additions, constructive thoughts, and/or corrections should be emailed to Alice ASAP.

Linda and Tom plan to visit Ken Weightman on May 8th in the afternoon.

The VT History Expo will be June 21 & 22. The exhibit will include art work by Georgia Balch and Ruth Molde as well as a poster exhibit about Julian Scott. Specific works will be identified when the date gets closer. The Society's work schedule in Tunbridge will be Saturday, 9 to 1 PM - Linda & Alice; 1 PM to 5 PM - Dean & Aggie; Sunday, 9 AM - 1 PM, Tom & Sue; 1 PM to 5 PM, Jane and Lois. Art work will be returned to Johnson on Saturday evening for safe storage.

Frank Dodge shared some history about his grandfather who was born in 1876, worked as a carpenter and bought the original farm in 1900. He bought Mansion House in 1953, east of the original farm.

Next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 9 AM at the Holcomb House. Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary

