

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
14 February 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Holcomb House

Present: Linda Jones, Alice Whiting, Jane Marshall, Dick Simays, Dean West, Tom Carney, Duncan Hastings, Frank Dodge, & Lois Frey. Guest: Aggie West.

Linda called the meeting to order with a review of the agenda. Two items were added:
1) foundation mapping and 2) newsletter.

The minutes of 10 January 2018 were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$22,836.96 with a reserve fund estimate of \$17,138.

Budget Report: It was noted that the annual \$1,500 allocation in lieu of rent has not yet been transferred to the town. All agreed the transfer should be made at this time with Duncan volunteering to coordinate with Rosemary.

Administrative items:

March 2018 House Host schedule: March 4th Dean West, March 11th Linda Jones, March 18th Tom Carney, and March 25th Lynn Sibley & Ed Raymond.

Update on Merrill Appraisal & Insurance: Linda reported that she has not heard from Merrill Appraisal although they had stated the report would be made to the Historical Society by the end of January. Since any negotiations with an insurance company is dependent on the value of the art, it was agreed that Linda will make one more contact reminding Ethan Merrill that the initial step for accessing the value of the paintings for the Historical Society was July 19, 2017 and we need a firm date for our insurance company.

Accessioning System: Duncan reported that he has emailed the Green Mountain Tech Center and Margo Warden about the Historical Society's interest in finding data input assistance. A notice on Front Porch Forum might generate interest. Alice volunteered to contact the IT Department at Northern Vermont College.

Discussion also covered the need for a training session on using the accessioning system which Duncan has installed on the computer for JHS Trustees. A training session by Duncan will be scheduled in the future.

Building Committee Report:

1) It was noted that the town road crew is doing a nice job of keeping the parking area open including on a recent snowy Sunday. The question was raised about who had the responsibility for shoveling and salting the entry way and making sure there is a supply of salt available at the Holcomb House. Tom reported that is a one of Don Garrett's tasks. Because Don is not usually available on weekends, the person who hosts on Sunday may have to clear the ramp and salt needed.

2) Duncan reported that the concrete request is in the Selectboard's budget and the suggestion for fixing the potential frozen pipes problem for the apartment has been made.

Programs/Projects:

Remember When: The Remember When Program is all set for Sunday, February 18th with the start time at 2 PM. The Holcomb House will be opened from 1 to 4 PM.

Town Meeting Plans: Volunteers will be asked to bake pies for sale by the Historical Society at Town Meeting on March 6th. Kyle Nuse has suggested that the start time for people gathering will be 8 AM with the meeting starting at 9 AM. It was decided to use the Johnson Farms Poster for the exhibit. There will also be membership forms and capital campaign brochures available. It was suggested that the availability of homemade pie at Town Meeting be sent to WLVB.

Future Events:

Suggestions were generated for future programs including 1) bridges of Johnson from 1850, show and tell with people's collections, genealogy-family research.

Fundraising Report:

Membership: Alice reported that 69 annual one-year memberships have been received since the recent mailing. Historical Society membership is about 100 people when the multi-year members including one new life membership are added to the tally. It was suggested that the membership form be added to the Facebook page and the JHS webpage.

Building Fund Committee: There was no building fund committee report.

Acquisitions:

*Linda donated a series of pictures of the Vermont Bicentennial Heritage Train (1991.)

*Bill Perkins donated pictures of the burning of Sterling Hall and some talc pictures.

*Linda donated Lister's records from 1920, 1921, and 1922 when S. J. MacComber was a Town Lister.

*Rhoda Kimble donated a small table/desk from the Vermont Electric Coop, which had been used by Mary Nye, Lois Beard and Gert Dubray for their accounting. Also included were two ink wells with pens, a telephone, a metal basket and a cross-stitch plaque.

Future Strategic Planning:

It was suggested that the Trustees develop a strategic plan. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and passed to begin the process of developing a strategic plan for the Historical Society.** It was suggested that the item be placed on next month's agenda.

Other Business:

*Foundation mapping: Duncan introduced the idea of determining where old foundations are located on a map before the information is lost. There are many approaches that can be used for a project of this kind. A committee of interested folks might generate a plan that could attract new folks with diverse skills to participate in a project. More to follow.

*Newsletter: The newsletter idea was not addressed and will be an agenda item for March 14th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary