

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

Present: Alice Whiting, Dick Simays, Dean West, Tom Carney, Jane Marshall, and Lois Frey.  
Regrets: Frank Dodge, Linda Jones, Duncan Hastings. Guest: Kelly Vandorn.

Dean called the meeting to order at 9 AM with a review of the agenda. Three items were added: Lisa Rowell publication (Jane), permission request for photo use (Lois), and TNL trash (Tom).

Secretary's Report: The minutes of 13 June 2018 were approved as printed.

The Treasurer's Report showed a reserve balance of \$16,704.43 with a checkbook figure of \$17,138. 30. The report was accepted as presented.

Budget Report: Tom reported all okay.

Administrative items:

\*August 2018 House Host schedule:

	August 02: Tom Carney
August 05: Dean West	August 09: Lois Frey
August 12: Lois Frey	August 16: Dick Simays
August 19: Jane Marshall	August 23:
August 29: Ed Raymond & Lynn Sibley	

\*Volunteer Position Description: It was suggested that discussion on this item be moved to a future meeting. No date set.

Building Committee Report:

\*Carriage Room: Dean noted that the joint compound procured by Duncan is ready to be used to mud the area in need.

\*Dean reported he has purchased two gallons of stain for the ramp. The weather has been too hot to tackle the sanding needed before staining.

\*In response to a question about staining the front stairs, Dean responded that the steps were made with pressure treated lumber, which needs to set before staining.

\*In a discussion of JHS trustees reporting their in-kind contributions in support of renovating the Holcomb House, Dean made an outline of areas where hours were previously accumulated and requested each member tally their contributions to the projects. Projects include: 1) patch (lathe) & paint Parlor, paint all interior walls; 2) clean exterior walls; 3) refinish two doors; 4) clean and repair light fixtures in parlor, purchase of light fixtures for East & West Rooms; 5) help install floor covering in main section of building; 6) plastering & painting in the Carriage Room; and 7) building the front steps. Additionally the volunteer time of folks helping to move all the contents that needed relocation during projects should be tallied.

\*Following a discussion of the storage areas seen recently at the Stone House Museum, it was suggested that the third floor of the Holcomb House might offer some storage potential including for art. A plan would need to be developed and funds raised to do the job right.

### Program Projects:

\*Strategic Planning session is set for July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Holcomb House.

\*Remember When: The Ladies View was well received with more than 30 folks attending. Tom successfully recorded the program. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved for Tom to purchase a supply of 16 gigabit PNY thumb drives for maintaining the recorded JHS programs, not to exceed \$100.** Funds to come from the Supply budget.

\*Tuesday Night Live – All present reported that the opening night on July 10<sup>th</sup> was first-rate. Lois deposited \$687.50 from food sales and \$24.50 from the tip jar for a total of \$712. She had previously picked up the donation of 50 pounds of McKenzie hot dogs, which are stored in the Holcomb House refrigerator along with the bottled water. Thanks to all the volunteers who make the JHS part of TNL possible.

\*Vermont Studio Center Restoration of Buildings Program. Following discussion, it was decided to offer the program about the restoration of Johnson buildings by the Vermont Studio Center on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Lowe Lecture Hall with a special refreshment event at the Holcomb House following the talk. While the date was acceptable to Gary Clark and Jim McDowell, Lois will confirm details with them.

Newsletter Preparation: Dick reported that WORD has a publisher template for newsletters. It was suggested that a volunteer editor be identified to take on the task. Volunteers welcome!

Fundraising Report: Alice shared the Keep Johnson History Flowing chart showing updated figures, which reflect the numbers of donors in each category of giving. The chart is on display at the Holcomb House. She also reported that the raffle for the two ski chairs began at Tuesday Night Live. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and will be on-sale throughout the TNL season at the weekly event and also at the Holcomb House.

### Acquisitions:

\*Alice donated a poker chip from Johnson State College (now a collectible.)

\*Dean reported that he and Linda have been in touch with Dr. Rogers, who offered to donate some of his medical equipment and/or materials as he is closing his practice. They plan to meet by the end of July.

### Other Business:

\*Potential publication: Jane reported that Lisa Rowell stopped by the Holcomb House recently to discuss a potential newsletter that she hopes to develop. Her request to the Historical Society would be to provide historical articles and pictures for the *Johnson eXpress*, a twice monthly publication which will be distributed for free. Tom suggested that we might contribute selections from our History of Johnson book when called upon for short stories. No action was taken. (Subsequently a one-page flyer was received by email from Lisa and sent to all.)

\*Request for use of photograph: Dr. Jerome Slate with the International Society Pleural Diseases contacted Linda about the reproduction of a talc mine photograph for use in the society's publication, *Pleura*. Linda asked that we consider the request. Following discussion, it was agreed to give permission for use of the early 1930s photograph of the American Mineral Company buildings giving appropriate credit to the Johnson Historical Society. Lois will prepare and send the response.

Other Business (continued)

\*Trash at TNL: Tom reported that the past trash problem (too many folks using the Historical Society barrel rather than the one where they purchased their product) continues. JHS is collecting multiple bags of trash consisting of many pizza boxes and Styrofoam boxes. Tuesday Night Live does not supply trash receptacles, relying on the vendors. Some trash was deposited in the container marked for bottles and cans only. Both problems were prevalent last year with no action taken. It was decided that Lois would speak with Meg Loscomb, the new TNL coordinator.

\*Organ at Stone House Museum: During the previously mentioned visit to Brownington, the visitors saw the Este of Brattleboro organ from the Baptist Church in Johnson, which was donated by Zillah Rexford. Zillah was the switchboard operator until 1953 when it closed. Dean worked for her husband, Ray during 1948-1950. Alice visited her home in 1960. Tracing the history and finding pictures of that organ while at the Baptist Church would be a great research project.

Our guest, Kelly Vanhorn moved with her family to Johnson from Alaska in March. She is interested in learning more about Johnson. She was recently appointed to the Library Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Next regular meeting will be at 9 AM on August 15th.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary