

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
9 October 2019 at the Holcomb House

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

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

The agenda was reviewed with one addition requested: a student opportunity and all agreed that Walter Pomroy should be moved up on the agenda.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 11 September 2019 were approved as printed following Kelly's clarification that the JHS made a deposit for the carriage room heater thus her September report was correct.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly reported the JHS balance is \$27,893.08. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Budget Report: Following discussion about the need to finish-up some wiring in the Carriage Room, **it was moved, seconded and approved to allocate up to \$200 and to request Keith Locke to complete the task.**

*Trail Building Project by Walter Pomroy. Walter shared with the Trustees his project to create a trail system on the Talc Mill Property. He has received approval to proceed from the Town Select Board and the Village Trustees. He plans to work with a variety of community groups to represent the diverse interests of the town. He would like to have the Historical Society join the project by providing historical context to some of the structures and remnants of buildings along the trail. Using pictures and historical snippets strategically placed along the trail and on a kiosk (perhaps by the trailhead), all agreed it would be an educational endeavor that would help citizens and visitors gain a prospective of one very important Johnson enterprise. As Walter progresses with the plan, he will keep the Historical Society informed and the Trustees will do the same.

Administrative items

*November 2019 House Host Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
03. Geoff Corey	07. Tom Carney
10. Alice Whiting	14. Dean West
17. Linda Jones	21. Lois Frey
24. Lynn Sibley	28. Closed for Thanksgiving

*Newsletter: Linda reported that Tyler Swenson and Luciana Swenson will do the next newsletter in January 2020. Send any ideas to Linda when you think of them.

*Web page: Mary Jean reported by email that she has been working with Grant Harper who will need work done on an excel spreadsheet to be able to make changes or additions.

*Strategic Planning Next Steps: There is no change in status from last month, waiting to hear from bidders.

*Carriage Room Alarm System: Tom has contacted and is waiting to hear from Chad Clark, who may or may not be able install the alarm system. Tom will follow-up to make sure the Carriage Room gets an alarm system. 2) Tom also reported that he has updated the emergency contact list with the Sheriff's Department.

*Student Opportunity: Sherry Boutin approached Lois about the Historical Society working with a young person on a task specific project. The student and his aide would be available on Thursday mornings starting in November. All agreed to support the proposal.

Building Committee Report

*Building Use Agreement Discussion: Those present reviewed the in-process document being prepared by Duncan and Dean offering support and a few comments which Dean will share with Duncan as they continue their task. They will continue developing the proposal and bring it to the JHS Trustees before meeting with the Select Board.

*Carriage Room Update: 1) Dean and Tom reported the heater has been installed. 2) Dean reported that Brian Krause will work on the grade needed by the Carriage Room when he has the excavator rented for other town projects, which will be late in October. 3) Tom has obtained information to create a new combination for the safe in that room. It was agreed that Tom should create a number and advise those who need to know.

*Knox Box: Dean reported the Knox Box has been ordered and should arrive this week. Dick suggested that there is a wood post rather than the vinyl siding that could hold the box.

Program/Projects:

* Linda and Alice have been invited to visit Dr. Holcomb's granddaughters sometime after the first snow fall. More to follow.

* Alice has spoken with Bob Titterton who is considering her invitation to speak.

* Tom will check with Thomas Gallagher to see if he has information on ST Johnsbury and Lamoille County trains with steam engines.

* Dean volunteered to be the team leader for a Johnson Schools talk and will work with Alice, Linda & Mary Jean to create and deliver the program. Dates being considered are in January and February 2020.

* Dean reported that he contacted Chan Parker and received approval to store the JHS railroad baggage cart at Parker & Stearns. The cart has been moved to its storage site. Thank you Chan!

Fundraising Report: Alice reported that the Fundraising Committee is taking a break. No news.

Acquisitions

*Alice contributed an interesting piece of talc.

*Bill Davis donated a scrapbook with life insurance records from 1891 to 1909 paid for by Arthur Davis and copies of his daughters' marriage certificates. Bill also shared pictures of the 1949 Davis family, Plot Road barn fire.

Other

*Kelly reported that she and Mary Jean attended the Vermont Historical Society's Annual Meeting in Montpelier on September 29th. They felt they benefited from hearing about activities of other Historical Societies and enjoyed a nice lunch.

*Dean reported that he and Aggie visited the North Hyde Park Historical Society's Open House in September. He said they are making great progress and are pleased to have young folks participating. He stated they acknowledged the help received from the Johnson Historical Society.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary