

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
14 August 2019 at the Holcomb House

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

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

The agenda was reviewed with five additions made: Conservation of map follow-up, Friends of JHS policy approval, concerns to share with Lamoille County Sheriffs Department, Knox Box, and building use agreement discussion & potential action.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 10 July 2019 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly reported the JHS balance is \$24,835.37 including some TNL revenue, one book sale, and receipt of the Vermont Community Foundation grant. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Budget Report:

Following a discussion about the slow internet speed at the Holcomb House which included comparing costs of Consolidated Communications and Comcast for telephone and internet, it was decided to upgrade the internet system. **It was moved, seconded and approved to upgrade with Consolidated Communications to 20 mg for download and 5 mg for upload at a cost of an additional \$7 per month.** Kelly and Jacob Vandorn will do the follow-up to make the change.

Following discussion about thumb drive capacity being used for accessioning storage, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to purchase one high capacity thumb drive using Jacob Vandorn's specifications at a cost of \$25.**

Administrative items

*August 2019 House Host Schedule

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
01. Closed for Labor Day	05. Tom Carney
08. Duncan Hastings	12. Dean West
15. Alice Whiting	19. Linda Jones
22. Lynn Sibley	26. Mary Jean Smith
29. Lois Frey	

*Newsletter: Tyler Swenson with help from his mother, Luciana will produce newsletters in September, June, and May. The next issue will feature history of the talc mill desk, the completed pie and celebration, Tuesday Night Live wrap up, maybe a mystery item. It was agreed that copies should be mailed to the membership plus distributed at the Municipal

Building and Town Library and added to the JHS webpage.

*Web page: Mary Jean and Lois reported on their meeting with Grant Harper who has helped to upgrade the postings on the present johnsonhistoricalsociety.org web page. Grant has submitted a proposal to take over hosting the JHS webpage at his Website Valley LLC. One question raised is how will the contract be handled if Grant Harper is not able to operate his business? Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to transfer the JHS webpage to Website Valley LLC and accept Grant Harper's proposal.**

*Strategic Planning Next Steps: Duncan reported the strategic planning grant has been accepted by the Vermont Community Foundation and the check for \$2,500 has been received. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the grant.** Duncan shared his Request for Proposal for a Strategic Plan document for review. Following discussion with one minor change, **it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Strategic Plan Proposal as prepared by Duncan and to let him circulate the proposal to his list of consultants.**

*Conserving books and ephemera: Linda spoke with Dennis Curran with KOFILE Technologies about the cost of making 11" x 17" color copies of the Town Plot Plan. At \$40 per copy, it was decided to purchase one color copy and make any additional copies locally. Following discussion about laminating those maps and other JHS papers, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to purchase one box of 8 ½" x 11 "and two boxes of 11" x 17" laminating sleeves, estimated at total cost of \$50.**

*Lamoille County Sheriff Dispatch: Mary Jean found that the alarm was not working correctly when she hosted on Sunday. Follow-up conversations by Tom helped to clarify that the LCSD was not receiving daily test calls. The alarm system folks and LCSD are working to assure the system functions properly. Tom is doing the follow-up including notifying the LCSD with updates to the JHS telephone contact list.

*Honorary & Friends of JHS statement: Following review of Alice's final copy, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Honorary and Friends statement dated 8.14.2019 as Johnson Historical Society policy.**

*Revised task list: Kelly reported the Task List has been modified and will be updated on a monthly basis allowing more space for recording. The form is hanging above the calendar in the Office.

Building Committee Report

*Building Use Agreement & potential action: Duncan and Dean reported that a date has finally been set, August 23rd for the Negotiating Meeting with the Selectboard representatives, Eric Osgood and Doug Molde. The materials developed previously were reviewed with the following areas highlighted for consideration: 1) formal agreement for use of building, 2) formal agreement for future purchase of building, and 3) establish cost to pay off loan and determine how the town would like the payment(s).

*Tasks needed in the Carriage Room: The work with contractors previously noted has been almost completed. The window and insulation have been installed. What needs to be done

includes: 1) install heater by Bourns, 2) Circuit for de-humidifier needs to be re-routed, 3) a missing section of insulation needs fixing against the outside wall, and 4) determine the problem and fix leak in the area near the window. The Committee will continue to monitor. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize payment to Village Builders provided we get word back prior to the Selectboard meeting on August 19th that the leak and insulation are fixed.** The bill is \$2,375 which will be negotiated with the Selectboard.

*Knox Box: Dean shared costs for the purchase of a Knox Box at \$350 - \$375 if installed by JHS. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to acquire and install a Knox Box.**

*Other: Following discussion it was decided to get options for entry security in the Carriage Room. Tom will follow-up.

Program/Projects:

*Capital Campaign Celebration Follow-up: Alice reported that the tenth slice of pie was placed on the pie chart on Sunday, July 28th signifying that the \$300,000 goal set by the Capital Campaign Committee has been reached. It was clarified that the largest donation was \$30,000 and the smallest was less than \$10.

*Tuesday Night live: With the receipts from August 13th added into the total, Tom noted that receipts to date are \$170 ahead of last year. It's a winning team!

*JHS shirts: *Dick introduced the idea of purchasing shirts with the JHS logo monogrammed on each at a cost of \$26.50 each. Following discussion about the purchase **Duncan made the motion which was seconded and approved to have the Historical Society pay 50% of the cost of the monogrammed shirts for Historical Society board members only.** There had been discussion about paying 50% of the cost for some other non-board members, but the final motion was for board members only.*

*What's next: Tom Carney presented a proposal to invite Thomas Gallagher from Champlain Valley Chapter, National Railway Historical Society to give a power point talk about a trip to the Southwestern United States to ride some of the premier tourist railroads in Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. The power point presentation is about 45 minutes in duration. Other suggestions included inviting Bob Titterton, a Julian Scott expert (Alice); Lynette & Courtney, Dr. Holcomb's granddaughters with memories of visiting their grandfather (Linda); and use the newsletter to ask members what they would like to hear.

Fundraising Report

*Raffle of Georgia Balch painting: Alice reported that ticket sales are slow but should increase as we reach the August 27th deadline. Forty-four more tickets to sell to reach our \$1,500 goal.

Acquisitions

*Linda shared a number of items including a State Normal School catalog dated 1891 sent by the St Albans Historical Society, a Johnson Grange #349 decorative ribbon, and a number of school related items from Andrea Blaisdell Also two notebooks of Ellsworth estate materials from Bruce and Mary Beard. One is the copy of Evelyn Hier Ellsworth's genealogy along with the original and the other notebook contains school items and newspaper clippings.

*Alice donated a Johnson postcard and two photos. One large photo of The Nye Block with Johnson Lunch, also showing the head of Railroad Street. The other was a not clear large photo of the kids standing by the Riverside school with the kids are identified.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary