

Johnson Historical Society Special Meeting
22 July 2020 at 9AM
Old Mill Park Pavilion

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

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Following review of the agenda there was one adjustment (see next item) and no additions. It was decided to move the acquisitions item first just in case of rain.

Acquisitions:

*Linda Jones shared a framed commemorative story of the purple heart presented to World War I soldier, Jason S. Hunt of Johnson and received by Hobb Scott in November 2018, who donated it and many supplemental materials to the JHS recently. There is also a notebook with memorabilia and Scott family information. Linda has been corresponding with Hobb Scott.

*Tom Carney was asked if the Historical Society would be interested in an old step-on scale perhaps from Dr. Codaire's Office. It was decided that since it was a Morrisville item, it should go to that community with our thanks for thinking of us.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from 11 March 2020 were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a balance of \$23,659.73.

Budget Discussion: Review of the JHS financial transaction report from Rosemary Audibert raised the question, Did JHS get reimbursement for cost sharing on heater in the Carriage Room? Duncan Hastings volunteered to follow-up.

With no income anticipated from Tuesday Night Live weekly sales during the Covid 19 summer of 2020, creating a loss of operating funds (which previously generated \$5,000 to \$5,500 annually) it was decided to ask the Selectboard for support. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to ask the Selectboard to dedicate the June 30, 2020 fund balance and reapply those funds to the 2021 budget year.** Dick will follow-up with assistance from Duncan.

Administration Items:

*Covid Status: With the Covid emergency order still in place, it was decided to keep the Holcomb House closed until the Municipal Building opens their doors and the environment is considered safe for public interactions. It was suggested that the public be advised that JHS still exists and we expect to be active when it is safe. Rick Aupperlee and Tom Carney took pictures of those present which will be used on Facebook and the Historical Society webpage.

*Webpage: Grant Harper continues to update the page and has made some changes. Be sure to check it out at www.johnsonhistoricalsociety.org.

*Strategic Planning Update: Duncan has received word from the Vermont Community Foundation that the requirements for completion of the strategic planning grant are no longer in effect due to the Covid emergency order. He will contact Jane Van Buren of Noonmark Consulting to see if she has any ideas for proceeding at this time in lieu of the retreat.

Building Committee Report: Dean West reported that sanding is still a primary project that is awaiting time and motivation. Tom reported that he has turned on the humidifier in the Carriage Room and it is working fine.

Fundraising report: Alice Whiting reported that the raffle project has been put on hold as this is no time for selling tickets.

A Historical Proposal: Rick Aupperlee shared information about Rev. Alva Ritchie Low of Johnson which he had found at the UVM Library in Special Collections. He is thinking of developing a learning module for his students at Laraway School and wondered if JHS would be interested in participating. JHS has a limited amount of information on file and would like to expand the collection. With interest in learning more from several members, Rick said he would keep JHS informed and would share information via the Secretary until the Holcomb House opens again.

Next Meeting: It was decided to return to the regular meeting schedule and to have the meeting at the Holcomb House where social distancing can be maintained starting on August 12, 2020 as long as safety concerns are met.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary