

Johnson Historical Society Meeting  
11 November 2020 at 9 AM  
Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Tom Carney (arrived 9:40 AM,) Kelly Vandorn, Mary Jean Smith, Duncan Hastings, Dean West, Linda Jones & Lois Frey. Absent: Alice Whiting

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the thoroughly cleaned Holcomb House.

There was one addition to the agenda: Covid-19 update.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from October 14, 2020 as printed and the November 6, 2020 minutes were accepted with one correction.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a balance of \$25,353.79. Since July 1<sup>st</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup> there were expenses totaling \$1,615.94 and \$310 in income. There are \$7,215 of budgeted dollars left. Of the \$2,935 appropriated from the town, there is a \$1,629 left. With no Tuesday Night Live income, our deficit is \$6,000 plus. Membership dollars are beginning to arrive as the membership letter was mailed at the beginning of November. Kelly has also received a \$77 royalty check from Arcadia Publishing Company. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

Budget Discussion:

\*Reserve Fund - Following discussion it was decided that no action to the Selectboard was required at this time although for the 2021-22 budget, a line item for a reserve fund should be proposed. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to include a line item category in the 2021-22 budget for a reserve fund entry.** It was noted that the end of fiscal year rollover request for unexpended funds is necessary annually.

\*Future Budget - In anticipation of budget preparation the Budget Committee of Kelly, Dean West, Duncan Hastings, and Mary Jean Smith was established. They set their first meeting for December 2, 2020 at 9 AM at the Holcomb House.

Administrative Items:

\*Webpage: Mary Jean continues to keep in touch with Grant Harper.

1) Based on a request from Alice related to the membership form, Mary Jean requested a change, which has been made.

2) One of Mary Jean's tasks has been to do one or two sentence write-ups to complement pictures in the galleries. She invited others to note unlabeled pictures and do a short write-up which can be sent to Mary Jean.

\*Facebook permissions: It has been suggested that items from the Facebook page could be added to the webpage if that was acceptable to Barbara Backus who administers it for the JHS. By making Mary Jean a Facebook co-administrator she could also prepare program promotions for that page. If the idea is workable with Barbara, it could help promote both JHS pages.

\*Strategic Planning Status: Jane Van Buren will be in contact with the strategic plan committee once she pulls together all the materials generated at the November 6<sup>th</sup> session. Some highlights from the event was discussion of the financial set-up for the Holcomb House, which is owned by the town. Duncan had volunteered to check on Holcomb House income. He has spoken with Brian Story who will complete a synopsis of income versus expense for the property. Another item was the need for an individual to assist with coordinating operations and implementing programs and projects planned by the Historical Society. Brian suggested that Lisa Crews had some time available; however, no cost for services was discussed. No position description has been developed by the Trustees.

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported the newsletter has been mailed to all Historical Society members along with the membership letter. Response has been favorable. Mary Jean will send a digital copy of the newsletter to Grant Harper for the JHS webpage and Sue Tinker for the town's webpage. January 2021 is the next scheduled newsletter and Luciana and Tyler Swenson will produce it working with Linda.

Covid-19 Update: The Holcomb House has been deep cleaned by Al and Candy Lettieri and all were pleased with their work. Dick reported that the Trustees and sub-committees can hold their meetings there; however, no in-person programs or visitors can take place in the facility until further notice.

#### Building Committee Report:

\*There was discussion about fixing the Carriage Room for use by Spring 2021. It was decided that sanding the ceiling and painting of the walls are two tasks that should be contracted. **It was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Dean to check if Lynda Hill could accomplish the task by April 1, 2021 or recommend someone who might be able to do it.** Mary Jean also has a potential contractor if Lynda can not do the job. If Dean is unsuccessful securing help, Duncan will post on Front Porch Forum.

\*Tom Carney has purchased and installed the security batteries with spare ones stored in the town clerk's desk in the office.

\*It was noted that the two stained ceiling tiles in the East Room need painting, a task that might be accomplished when the Carriage Room is painted.

\*Dean expressed his concern that the JHS trailer is parked on grass, which is not good for the long-term storage. Discussion about moving it to a new location generate potential options at the Tony Lehouillier farm or at Parker and Stearns. Tom will do a drive-by check to see if space might be available. Other suggestions can be made to Dean.

\*Tom has made new keys for the Holcomb House so any Trustee having difficulty with opening the doors should exchange the key.

\*Dick stated that a site to store the trash barrel presently located in the East Room needs to be found. His suggestion the Kitchen closet, if reorganized, would be okay.

\*Kelly reported that Al & Candy Lettieri will clean the outside of the storm windows and the inside of the house windows and at the same time make an estimate of the cost of cleaning the glass between the windows for a future project.

Program/Projects:

Program Committee Report - The members of the Strategic Planning Program Committee shared their list of potential programs in the future:

Red Hooper slides

Garden Tour with the Holcomb granddaughters

Philip Thompson

Travis Smith - a view of the Davis homestead

Village Walking Tour - self guided

Pie sale or cookie sale around holidays - presently restricted due to Covid-19

Antiques Appraisal with Mark and Eddie

Fundraising:

No report from Alice, who will be receiving the proceeds of the membership letter and will have a report for the December meeting.

Acquisitions:

\*It was decided to not accept a corn shucker offered by Bill Jaspersohn as the JHS already has one and Bill's is from Connecticut. Thank you to Bill for thinking of us.

\*It was decided to say no thank you to Brian Currier for his offer of scales because JHS already has a similar one known to be used in Johnson.

\*Mary Jean delivered an arial photo of Johnson donated by Grant & Laurie Harper.

\*Tom presented a Johnson Bowling Alley - Lane 4 marker donated by Don Gillen.

\*Linda shared the contents of a box of books sent from the granddaughter of Frank Jones. It is believed that Frank Jones was a resident of Jeffersonville so Duncan volunteered to check with their Historical Society to see if they wanted the six books.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary

*Next Meeting:* Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 9 AM.