

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
9 December 2020 at 9 AM via ZOOM

Present: Dick Simays, Tom Carney 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 9:10 AM. There were two additions to the agenda: acceptance of budget committee minutes and an executive session to discuss a pending contract.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from November 11, 2020 as printed with the knowledge that the antique level survey instrument donated by Brian Krause was accepted at the October 14, 2020 meeting.**

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Budget Committee minutes for December 2 and 7, 2020, prepared by Duncan Hastings as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a balance of \$32,659.59 with the prior year's surplus of \$6,642.75 reflected in the balance. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

Budget 2021-2022 Discussion: The proposed FY2022 budget prepared by the Budget Committee and sent to all by Duncan was reviewed. Duncan noted the addition of the line item, Reserve Fund as discussed at a previous meeting. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Proposed FY 22 Budget-Historical Society and submit the spreadsheet to the Selectboard.** Duncan will pass it on to Eric Osgood and Brian Story. A copy of spreadsheet filed with minutes.

Administrative Items:

*Webpage: Mary Jean Smith continues to work with Grant Harper. For the Holiday Season she has lined up six readers for Holiday Story Time. With books provided by Alice Whiting, the readers include Mary Jean, Sarah Backus Chambers, Jess West, Dedra Dolan, Sue Carney, and Kathy Tobin. First up is Mary Jean with *Wild Christmas Reindeer* by Jan Brett and is available on the webpage.

Also, Mary Jean said Dean West had sent her some material about folks in the gallery to be added with their pictures. Other members with knowledge about a picture are encouraged to send a sentence or two with the information to Mary Jean.

*Equipment Needs: Dick asked if anyone had equipment needs suggesting that this would be a good year to purchase items if needed. Keep in mind purchase would need to happen before 30 June 2021.

*Newsletter: Linda Jones reported that the next newsletter is scheduled for January 2021.

*Membership: The November newsletter was mailed with the 2021 membership letter and is generating results. Linda Jones is picking up the mail, tabulating memberships, and documenting donations for Alice Whiting, who continues to recuperate at home. Memberships received to date: 9 Individual, 9 Senior which includes one five-year membership, 14 Family which includes two five-year memberships, and 1 Business membership as well as \$1,455 in donations. The question was asked if JHS sends reminders, which has not been done so far. Mary Jean will put a reminder on the webpage and Linda will send one to Barbara Backus for the Facebook page. Linda also reported that she compared previous membership lists and found 43 former memberships not renewed. It was decided that a membership letter and newsletter will be sent those folks. Coordinating with Alice, Linda and Lois will follow-up.

*Strategic Planning Status: Duncan noted he has sent Jane Van Buren's draft of the JHS Strategic Plan 2021-2026 with her outline of the next five steps. After careful review of the document, the Board will need to discuss items one through four (perhaps via ZOOM) after the first of the year and then meet again with Jane to create a work plan which captures the detail of who will be responsible for what and prepare clear benchmarks.

*Executive session: It was moved, seconded and approved to enter executive session for the discussion of a pending contract. Entered at 9:55 AM. Returned to the regular meeting at 10:10 AM.

Building Committee Report:

*Carriage Room: Mary Jean reported that Justin Niles will do the Carriage Room sanding after the first of the year. Tom Carney has purchased the appropriate masks for the task. They come in a package of two so there is one to be used by Justin and a spare for a future project if needed. Kelly has processed the invoice to reimburse Tom.

*Dean reported he has spoken with Lynda Hill who is willing to paint the Carriage Room after the sanding is complete.

*Duncan reported that the grading at the backside of the Holcomb House still needs to be completed. Duncan will follow-up.

*Donnie has cleaned the gutters to prevent ice build-up this winter.

Conservation of Books:

After the March 2020 JHS meeting, Linda and Lois took a number of books to the Municipal Building to have available for Dennis Curran of KOFILE Technologies to give an estimate for preserving each. He has on-going work with the town and his company did a terrific job on our previous items. With the Municipal Building closed no action has taken place. Linda and Lois will check with Rosemary to see if the estimate can be completed soon so JHS can dedicate the funds.

Program/Projects: The Program Committee had no report.

Fundraising: There was no fundraising report; however, see the Membership item for income to date.

Acquisitions

*Linda reported that the Cambridge Historical Society donated 38 photos by Doris Stearns at 8" x 10" and three at 9.5" x 14." Eight photos are of the Stearns family. We now have original photos for many for which we only had copies. Linda has sent a thank you.

*Linda reported that John Manley has delivered 14-16 pages of World War 2 memories written by Don Manley, who is now 92 years old and still fits into his military uniform. Linda will create a notebook for his materials.

*Linda reported receipt of a hand-knit decorated with cows sweater made by former librarian Nancy Parker and donated by Barbara Backus.

*Lois Frey reported that JHS has been offered a copy of the 1936 Janus from the Johnson Normal School that was owned by Homer Baraw and is reportedly in mint condition. Upon checking at the Holcomb House, the volume is one that JHS does not have yet. It was agreed we should accept the gift. Lois will contact the donor.

*Mary Jean reported she has been in contact with Crystal Maxim who has pictures of the Jay Maxim farm. She will follow-up.

*Duncan reported that the Cambridge Historical Society is not interested in receiving the collection of books offered to them by JHS.

*Tom Carney is looking for information about an IBM donation program that has been suggested by Ed Raymond. Tom will follow-up.

Lois asked do we have a plan to monitor the JHS telephone for calls since no one will be in the Holcomb House until further notice. It was suggested that voice messages can be retrieved from any members' home telephone. The question raised: how is that done? Tom volunteered to check and report back.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 9 AM.