

Johnson Historical Society Meeting  
13 January 2021 at 9 AM via ZOOM

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

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from 9 December 2020 with two spelling corrections, Dedra and Sarah.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a year-to-date income of \$12,273.86 raised from memberships and donations with the prior year's surplus of \$6,642 reflected in the balance. The strategic planning grant still has \$1,600 of committed but unspent dollars. Reserve checkbook balance shows \$33,450.04 but Rosemary still needs to subtract \$6642 from the balance. Questions were raised about reserve fund recordkeeping and how surplus will be recorded. It was decided that Duncan Hastings will email Eric Osgood and Brian Story to express the JHS concerns with reporting of year-end spending. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

Administrative Items:

\*Annual Town Report: Following discussion Duncan volunteered to write the Annual Report and send it out to all for review before sending it to Rosemary by January 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*Webpage: Mary Jean Smith reported the holiday stories were well received and the volunteers learned quickly how to record. Grant Harper sent the analytics, which are very positive. Mary Jean is working with Grant on another project using PowerPoint with voice-over telling a story about people or a business, maybe Vermont Electric Coop. Kudos for her on-going work to bring the webpage to life.

Also, Mary Jean said Dean West continues to provide info about folks in the gallery, which she adds with the appropriate pictures.

Noting another source of pictures and information Duncan said he was pleased to receive a copy of *2-1-16 VT Studio Center Historic Review* from Jim McDowell. The file documents information about each of the VSC buildings.

\*Newsletter: Linda Jones reported that the next newsletter is ready to be copied and distributed for January 2021. She will print extra copies to send to Capital Campaign contributors. A recognition plaque lists all the donors, who contributed a total of \$302,250 and is a featured story in the January newsletter. Luciana Swenson did another super job!

Facebook: Linda reported that the holiday series of pictures on Facebook received many likes and comments. Santa Claus pictures were terrific. Thanks to Linda and Barbara Backus. Linda will ask Barbara for a usage update if available.

Strategic Plan: Next step is to get Trustees' thoughts about Jane's document to her. With general consensus that the target items are good; however, we may need acknowledgement in the plan that

we are having difficulty moving forward without in-person discussion. Do we feel the need to have a meeting of just Trustees to see what changes we might like in the draft? For information purposes only, Duncan will share the responses he has received to date. It was decided that we need a Trustee meeting before sending our thoughts to Jane. The meeting could help us get a framework that we can work within. It would be good to have a goal or two that we can address during 2021 under Covid-19 conditions and set a time-line for working on the other goals in the future. It was noted that Jane's contract should be completed no later than June 30, 2021. A Strategic Plan meeting via ZOOM was set for Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9 AM to fill in blanks on strategic plan. The follow-up will be a wrap-up meeting with Jane to create a work plan which captures the detail of who will be responsible for what and prepare clear benchmarks.

\*Fundraising: Linda reported membership statistics 12.15.2020 to 1.10.2021 including Membership income of \$350, which includes 3 individual, 3 senior, 6 family (1 being a 5-year membership,) and 1 business. Linda also reported donations of \$400 for JHS general operating and JHS Inc. revenue of \$750.

\*Building Committee Report: Mary Jean plans to follow-up with Justin about the Carriage Room work and coordinate with Dean West.

\*Conservation of Books: Rosemary Audibert reports that Dennis Curran of KOFILE Technologies has not returned to the Municipal Building yet. The 13 JHS items will remain there during the Covid-19 state of emergency.

\*Program/Projects: The Program Committee had no report. Tom recommended that Ben and Stacey Waterman were Peace Corp volunteers, who could offer an interesting program.

\*Acquisitions: Linda reported the following items were donated by Duffy Miller:

13 photos, 5x7 inches of school children (some identified.)

Hillside School picture dated Spring 1913 with some students identified.

Postcard of High School Students.

A 1909 photo of children in front of the school with bikes and a woodpile.

A photo of children at back of school showing a corner of Sterling Hall.

A Chamber of Commerce brochure.

A letter from Evelyn Ellsworth (1989) making a reservation for the Alumni banquet.

Town Reports from 1893 (mint condition,) 1943 and 1953.

Linda also delivered for Alice Whiting a Class of 1945 Class Will rolled on a dowel.

Lois reported receipt of a 1935 Johnson Normal School yearbook, *Janus* and class picture, donated by James H. Baraw. Donation belonged to Homer C. Baraw (his grandfather) who graduated with a degree in teaching.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting, January 20, 2021 at 9 AM via ZOOM

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary