

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
10 February 2021 at 8:30 AM via ZOOM

Present: Dick Simays, Tom Carney, Kelly Vandorn, Duncan Hastings, Linda Jones. Alice Whiting at 9:22 AM, Dean West at 9:22 AM, Mary Jean Smith @ 9:34 AM, & Lois Frey. Also, HP Administrator

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. There was one addition to the agenda: Linda Jones has a Google mail question.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from 1.13.2021 and 1.20.2021.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a year-to-date income of \$12,823.86 includes the prior year's surplus reflected in the balance. Reserve checkbook balance shows \$33,624.10. Expenses this month include \$218 from Justin's work in the Carriage Room and \$100.94 for internet and telephone. Printing and postage for the newsletter have not been recorded. It was noted that JHS has \$6181.11 to spend by year's end. It was decided that Kelly would forward the monthly print-out to all in advance of the meeting. Tom reported that he and Dean checked the work by Justin and found it to be very well done. Sheetrock is ready to paint. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

Administrative Items:

*Google letter: Linda Jones reported receiving a letter from Google My Business which she thought might be a scam. All agreed it probably was a scam but Linda should check with Mary Jean to be sure the letter wasn't related to any of Grant Harper's work.

*Newsletter: Linda reported that the next newsletter is scheduled for May 2021. Compliments were extended to Linda for another excellent newsletter.

*Strategic Plan: Duncan Hastings forwarded the information from the JHS January 20th meeting to Jane Van Buren as requested by her. He noted we did not assign years to the tasks (which we identified) so that may be something Jane will want us to tackle. Jane thanked us for the good work and will contact us soon.

*Bylaw Revision: This item came from the strategic planning session. Following discussion, it was decided that a committee should be formed to tackle the task. Duncan volunteered, followed by Dean and Tom. Dick suggested that comments from other Trustees should be sent to the committee. Dean asked when it was time for officer re-election? Finding no clear indication, it was suggested that might be reviewed as well. Dick referred that discussion to the newly established Bylaw committee.

*Conservation of Books: Still no action from KOFILE Technology.

*Webpage: Mary Jean Smith reported adding comments to the Gallery with Dean West, who has completed the Business section while Mary Jean finished People. Next step is to complete the Gallery. They are thinking about how to consolidate some sections that have oodles of pictures like the Talc Mill & Mine. Mary Jean was wondering if some pictures needed elaboration to help folks know the

connection to community of some pictures. She hopes to find a different way to show some materials, maybe add a link to another page for more information on a picture. Perhaps create an album. She is also working with Grant Harper on the Vermont Electric Co-Op presentation. Duncan may be able to connect with Bill Gallagher, long-time General Manager. And Rebecca Towne is the present General Manager.

Linda returned to the letter from Google My Business. It was decided that she will deliver the letter to Mary Jean, who will check with Grant.

*Building Committee Report: Dean reported that the Carriage Room is ready to be thoroughly vacuumed and then painted. Dean has not spoken to Lynda Hill about painting, but he will.

Tom said he and Donnie Garrett plan to meet with the tenant to check the third-floor door and its lock. Duncan suggested that they notify Brian Story as the lease agreement is with the Town not the Historical Society.

Dick mentioned the sizeable ice chunks on the roof and asked if the section which leaked last year was a potential problem this year. Tom suggested that Brian might look at the ice build-up when they check the upstairs. Ice build-up can cause serious damage so it is important to let the Town know there is a potential problem. It was noted that the paintings have not been returned to that wall and should not be.

*Program/Projects: The Program Committee had no report. However, Linda presented some stats from Barbara Backus about Facebook usage. From 1.13.2021 to 2.9.2021 there were 2,598 people reached and 2,431 engagements. The recent Dedication post generated 1436 with 703 engagements. Results from 2-3 through 2-9: Post Reached 1,673, Post Engagements 1,468.

Countries and fan numbers: USA 1227, Canada 7, Mexico 2, UK 1, France 1, & Japan 1.

Lois noted that Linda scanned all the dedication pictures from annual Town Reports, which was a labor of love that we all appreciate. Linda will do the Village dedications next time. Duncan thought the high usage could generate some opportunity for fundraising. If we establish active committees, it could be a charge for one of them.

*Membership Committee addition: Alice Whiting asked what was the intent of the agenda item. Dick explained it came from the strategic planning work. Increased membership with a recruitment plan could be addressed with a membership committee.

Alice stated her role as Membership Secretary is part of the JHS, which is why she has the leadership role for membership. A membership committee could help bring new ideas and perspective to the task. Dick suggested Alice's long tenure in the role would make her an excellent prospect to chair the new committee.

The strategic plan identified tasks that could benefit from committee assistance. Since JHS does not have a membership committee, it may be a good addition as long as there is an outline for the role and responsibilities of said committee. Another task for the by-law committee could establish a membership committee in the bylaws with tasks delineated in a side bar listing the responsibilities. Dick asked that the membership list be sent to all. Alice is in the process of recording the 2021 membership list which she will be able to provide at the next meeting. Alice thanked Linda for her help with the membership drive (mail pick-up, recording receipts, & making deposits) while she was house-bound. Dick suggested a key be added to the membership list with any codes such as D for donation. It was clarified that the President can appoint a committee as needed. It was suggested that a job description/task list be established so folks will know what is involved for all committees.

Linda reported recent 2021 memberships of 1 Senior; 4 Family, one of which is a 5-year membership; 1 business for a total membership deposit of \$235.

Fundraising: Alice has no report except for the membership reported by Linda.

***Acquisitions**

Linda reported acquisition of a Pop Odell knife and two slates from the Stackpole/Barrows roof, donated by Bill Perkins

Tom was given an album by Steve Leach that includes pictures of the 1927 flood and more as collected by Phyllis Jewett. Photos were taken by Doris Stearns.

Dick offered that he can digitize the Red Hooper pictures. The project has stalled due to Covid-19.

Next meeting: Duncan has reserved ZOOM for the next three months. Next session is 10 March 2021 at 9 AM via ZOOM.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary