

Johnson Historical Society Monthly Meeting
14 April 2021 at 9:00 AM via ZOOM

Present: Dick Simays, Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn, Duncan Hastings, Dean West, Linda Jones, Mary Jean Smith, Tom Carney (9:50 AM) and Lois Frey.

Dick called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. No changes were made to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: Linda pointed out an error in the minutes which was corrected to state that *the JHS Facebook page has received 1,266 likes as of March 10, 2021.* **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 3.10.2021 minutes with the one correction.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly provided a copy of the JHS Budget Sheet with revenue and expenses recorded through April 12, 2021 as well as the transaction sheet. There were no major expenses or income during the month. The reserve checkbook balance is \$33,659.61. (Documents filed with minutes.) **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.**

Election of Officers: Following discussion **it was moved, seconded, and approved to defer the election of officers to the May meeting when a nominating committee can provide a slate of officers.** Subsequently, **Dick appointed Mary Jean and Dean to serve as a Nominating Committee.**

Administrative Items:

*Web Page - Mary Jean provided all members with the Analytics for Johnson Historical Society for March 2021, a video. The WordPress was updated and all works well. There were 336 views during March with 20% on PCs and 80% on mobiles. Mary Jean reported she was contacted by Kathy Horner, who is putting something together with pictures of the Horner family and their store and greenhouse, which was located on Route 15.

*Facebook – Linda reported that the spelling error on the Art themed Facebook page has been corrected.

*Conservation Items – Linda reported that the status of Kofile is still uncertain. It seems the estimator is not available at this time. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize up to \$6,000 for conservation of as many of the previously selected items IF Kofile is accepting conservation work.** Linda and Lois will contact Kofile directly and deliver the materials to them if that is acceptable.

*Email Process: Dick reported that he has checked the JHS email and moved items into folders depending on the action needed on them. He has deleted the inordinate amount of trash that accumulated in the mailbox during the pandemic.

Strategic Plan review & action: Duncan shared via email the Strategic Plan documents for review and discussion. It was decided to postpone the discussion until an in-person meeting can be scheduled. Dick will check with the Emergency Management Board to set an appropriate date.

By Law Revision Committee Report: Duncan reported that the Committee has not met as gathering at the Holcomb House did not work. They do have a discussion draft document in process. They will meet next week.

Building Committee Report: Dean reported that Lynda Hill is on-board to paint the stained ceiling tiles in the East Room. Dean also listed items needing work in the Carriage Room including overhead lights, some boards need painting, some insulation repair to name a few tasks that he and Tom can do. Duncan volunteered to help.

Dean has arranged for the use of a very large covered trailer during the Carriage Room clean-out week.

Kelly has spoken with the Lettieri's who will be available when needed but not on Wednesday or Thursdays.

Dean also reported that Lynda is recommending using floor/deck finish on the Carriage Room floor which is fast curing. Dean thinks once the floor is thoroughly cleaned his team can apply the finish.

*Mary Jean sent pictures of the rose bush work she accomplished. It was a much needed task, which will most likely rejuvenate the rose bush this summer. She also reported that she found and cleaned up a large amount of barf around the front of the porch and along the building in the parking lot. It was nasty stuff. This is a first-time problem at the Holcomb House and should probably be reported to Brian Story.

Process for Rail Trail Building photographic display: Doug Molde suggested to Duncan that it would be good to have a design plan and some photo ideas for the Building Display. Following discussion, Linda volunteered to put a selection of photos on a flash drive. It was recommended that captions be prepared for the selected photos. Dean, Duncan, Tom, and Linda will do. Duncan will send pictures of the Cambridge Junction Rail Station photos for all to get an idea about the work of Great Big Graphics and the project.

Program/Projects

*Tuesday Night Live – Lois reported that as of this date, the TNL committee is planning for mid-August scheduling if Covid-19 permits according to Howard Romero.

*TNL Trailer – Dean suggested that the JHS trailer should be moved to the Holcomb House parking lot as it is presently set on grass, which is growing and could do damage to the underpinnings. All agreed.

Acquisitions:

*Lois reported that Rosemary Audibert sent an Olympia manual typewriter, used in the Municipal Building many years ago, to the Historical Society.

*Linda reported receiving a number of items:

From: Barbara Backus

35--3 1/4 x 5 inch JES Kids and teachers photos, some identified

3--5x7 inch JES kids, not identified

1 5x7 inch photo of the original Senior Art Group, all identified

Mini album with 24 photos of building the addition JES

2 copies of pages from JES yearbook, information and pictures of the school 1895-2006

From Rosemary Audibert

2005 copy of booklet, Alice Hills Baylor and Primroses for Eastern Gardens with pictures of Alice and Sky Hook Farm

From Cory Ryder

Copy of his latest CD, Forever Rooted. recorded while he was a resident of town, a promotional poster for the CD, and a Business Card.

From Rick Heath

Newspaper Clippings as follows:

Margaret Dary 100th birthday celebration 2013

Margaret Dary obit, 2014

Johnson State College, A College for all Seasons

Nye Block/Landmark fire

Copied pages with lists of soldiers credited to, born in or buried in Johnson

Candace Page

Framed Photo of the birthplace of Ellen Frances Patch born in Johnson 12.12.1842

Other:

*Duncan asked if the JHS wants to think about taking a position on town-owned cemeteries. Lois pointed out that the ownership of the multiple cemeteries in town is not clear. A good project could be to clarify town-owned cemeteries and to identify with contact information the associations that govern the others.

*It was decided that Dean and Tom would check on the status of the former Parker & Stearns shed that stores the JHS buggy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Next meeting will be May 12th at 9 AM.

Meeting minutes by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary