

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
9 June 2021 at 9 AM
Holcomb House & ZOOM

Present: Dick Simays, Tom Carney (9:36 AM), Kelly Vandorn, Duncan Hastings, Linda Jones. Alice Whiting, Dean West, Mary Jean Smith & Lois Frey. Guest Via ZOOM: Dennis Richards.

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Adjustments to the agenda included adding discussion about Dean's replacement on the Board and Chairlift potential donation.

Secretary's Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from 5.12.2021 with one correction. (Dean is retiring from the Board of Trustees not resigning.) It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting on May 29,2021 as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn shared the budget report with all. Expenses include \$104.63 for the cost of printing and mailing the May newsletter as well as a \$50 charge for internet. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.**

Linda and Lois reported that the paperwork for the conservation project with KOFILE arrived on June 8th. Following discussion of how to process the bill **it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Rosemary Audibert to pay KOFILE \$5,944 as per the sales receipt for conservation of four books.** Kelly will sign the sales receipt on behalf of JHS.

There was discussion about the town's Capital Budget Program (dated 11.13.2020) which Lois Frey believes does not include the Historical Society. Duncan had raised the same issue with Brian Story in September 2020 and it appears that issue has not been addressed. Duncan will follow-up.

Administrative Items:

*Webpage: Mary Jean Smith followed up with Jerry Smith at Over and Above Videography. They estimated the cost would be about \$150 to create a virtual tour of the Holcomb House. She also spoke with Elias Gillen, a high school senior, who would be able to create a virtual tour including background music. Those present wondered if a narrative with a few highlights could be incorporated into the video. Mary Jean will follow-up. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to pursue a contract for a virtual tour with sound by Elias Gillen not to exceed \$300.**

*Social Media - Facebook: Linda Jones reported there will be new pictures by the end of the week featuring PEOPLE.

*Town social media policy: The town at the 1.04.2021 Selectboard meeting adopted a social media policy, which does not appear to be posted on the town's webpage. There were changes to the document made at that meeting so Lois said she does not have a final copy to share.

*Conservation items: As noted above KOFILE has started the project of restoring four publications.

Strategic Plan report: Duncan has sent the JHS final document to Jane Van Buren who will recommend dates connected to the proposed actions. Once returned the document should be sent to the Selectboard for their review and then to Dick Simays to post.

Bylaw Revision: Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to adopt the amended bylaws for the Johnson Historical Society dated June 9, 2021.** Duncan will forward the approved document to the Selectboard. Thank you to Duncan for leading the bylaw update.

Building Committee report:

*Dean West reported that the trailer will be ready to move to the Holcomb House in a few days after which the Carriage Room clear-out can begin. He also reported that Eben Patch volunteered to assist with the project so his name should be added to Tom Carney's volunteer work-crew list.

*Mary Jean noted that grass at the Holcomb House has not been mown and grooming close to the building and under the rose bush again needs work. Volunteers might be willing to join a work party project.

*Dean and Linda reported that the Holcomb House Tour with Eben Patch and Beth Foy was well received. Both arrived early and stayed longer than expected. They toured all of the Historical Society's space including the Carriage Room. Dean shared the history of the Historical Society organization and highlighted many of the exhibits with their connection to people of Johnson with Linda assisting drawing on her extensive knowledge as needed.

*The tour of the upstairs apartment by the Selectboard Committee was reported at their June 7, 2021 meeting, which Lois attended. She reported that Eric Osgood found the apartment "messy with no noticeable damage – a tired apartment." Tom noted that 16 garbage bags of trash were moved to the tenant's cars before the inspection and subsequently taken to the dumpster by Don Garrett.

*Parking at Holcomb House. It was noted there are four cars parked regularly at the Holcomb House raising the question of the number of tenants and the ability for trustees and guests to park on site as well as a potential liability issue.

*Future use of Holcomb House Committee: Eben Patch will represent the Selectboard on the committee with Duncan, Mary Jean, Kelly, and Dean representing the Historical Society.

*Duncan has reported the roof leak to Brian Story, who is looking for someone to assess the situation. Mary Jean said she could check with Justin Niles. Duncan will follow-up with Brian.

*Duncan continues to await a response from Hugh Albright about completing the excavating project to prevent damage at the rear of the Holcomb House.

Stairlift:

*Mike Dunham contacted Dick about the availability of a donated chairlift for the Holcomb House. The timing is not right for addressing accessible access by the Historical Society to the second floor of the Holcomb House.

Rail Trail Building project:

*Work has started on the project, which has an August 22nd deadline. Duncan has not received word that funding for the historic exhibit panels is available. It was decided that Linda, Lois, Alice and Mary Jean could start writing text to go with the pictures to avoid a rushed-job if funding is received.

Fundraising:

*Following discussion about Tom Carney's suggestion of a Go Fund Me project, it was decided that the recommendation would be a good activity for the Revenue Development Committee when appointed by Dick or for JHS Inc. Go Fund Me seems to be best suited with a specific target and might be used project by project.

Program/Projects:

*Tuesday Night Live might be an upcoming program; however, until Covid- 19 restrictions are clarified it is difficult to make plans. According to their minutes, the TNL Committee is making plans to run a full season starting on July 6th. Alice volunteered to contact Howard Romero to learn about vendors and guidelines. In the

past, Linda, Alice and Lois have been able to line-up all that is needed for the program in a relatively short time. A special meeting may be needed since TNL as envisioned now starts before the next JHS meeting.

Acquisitions:

*Linda brought a replica of the 1870 Power House Bridge and the Power Station delivered to her by David Griswold. David knows the old bridge well as he used to play on the dam as a youngster. His bridge represents the original Queen's Post structure. Linda will send thank you note.

*Dean brought an all brass bell that was given to him by Stan Ellow, who found the bell buried on land at the West Settlement about 30 years ago (circa 1990.) The livestock bell was marked Colonial 1832-1921. Lois will send thank you note.

*Alice Whiting brought a photo showing the downstairs of the old Methodist Church.

Other: With Dean's notice for retirement officially accepted, Dick asked Dean to forward his letter to Eric Osgood and Brian Story so they can announce the Trustee vacancy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Next meeting: July 14, 2021 at the Holcomb House with ZOOM availability if restrictions still apply.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary