

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
14 July 2021 at 9 AM
Holcomb House

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

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. One addition to the agenda is the re-opening of the Holcomb House.

Secretary's Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from June 9, 2021 and June 23, 2021 as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported a balance of \$24,599.46. Expenses included the KOFILE payment of \$5,944 as well as costs associated with the Carriage Room renovations and the monthly Holcomb House cleaning. She reported income of \$1,604 from Tuesday Night Live Food receipts. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.** Dick then advised that according to Roberts Rules of Order the budget report does not require an official acceptance.

Administrative Items:

*Facebook: Linda Jones reported that the next posting on Facebook will be based on the JHS postcard collection. She is finding it more difficult to come up with posting categories. Suggestions are welcome.

*Town social media policy: The town at the 1.04.2021 Selectboard meeting adopted a social media policy, which does not appear on the town webpage yet. It was agreed to follow the old policy until notification with guidelines for use are available.

*Capital Budget: Dick suggested the topic be deferred until the August meeting.

*Town Procurement policy: Lois Frey reported she requested an updated copy of the Town Procurement Policy and received the document approved on May 3rd. There was no action taken to address Duncan's request to the Trustees.

Building Committee report:

*Roof inspection: Duncan Hastings sent an email report about his meeting with Dana McKnight, which he sent to Eric Osgood and Brian Story. Dana suggests there could be multiple issues. He could not find any easily identifiable source of a leak. Could be ice dams, could be infiltrating somewhere else, but he thinks the main problem is escaping heat from the building causes melting of snow and ice or the creation of an "ice ball" between the ceiling and the roof, which melts when it gets warmer and finds a way in. He has two suggestions.

Number one, do our best to keep snow and ice off the roof all winter long. Then in March or April when the sun gets hot and shines on the roof if there is still a problem and the roof is clear, there is likely a problem somewhere between the ceiling and the roof. Conversely if there is no leak then it is probably a question of ice dams, which are caused by heat loss through the roof.

Number two. He could remove some of the ceiling tiles inside the room and see what there is for insulation between the ceiling in the original roof. If there is not much insulation, it is quite possible that tearing out the ceiling and using spray foam insulation in the existing old roof would prevent heat loss and probably cure leaking roof. He also suggested popping a couple holes in that outside wall (from the inside) to see what there is for insulation in that wall as that could be part of the problem of heat loss. If it ends up that applying foam insulation is the recommendation, he also highly recommends removing the paneling and spray forming that

exterior wall as well.

Duncan noted that Number 2 suggestion is probably the cure for any of the problems if they are in fact heat loss related. Whatever is done is a Selectboard decision.

*Dean West shared a history of JHS's experience with Efficiency Vermont as it was suggested that a grant for insulating the building might be a future project. He explained that the vermiculite in one section of the building must be removed before Efficiency Vermont can help.

It was also noted that the project to grade behind the building was accomplished by the town crew and looks to be a successful project.

*Parking lot condition at Holcomb House: It was noted that the parking lot needs to be re-graded away from the building to avoid wet areas (perhaps by the Town crew.) Also, the perimeter of the parking lot is overgrown with weeds and plants. Several years ago, Dean cleaned it out but the task needs to be done again. It was noted that at this time the Building Committee is Tom Carney, Dean & Duncan. The special Building-Use Committee is Duncan, Dean, Mary Jean Smith, Kelly and Eben Patch.

*Carriage Room status: With thanks to Dean and the many volunteers on Tom's Team, it was noted that the clean up project went very well. There is one section that needs painting along the baseboard (an on hands & knees task,) which Tom volunteered to complete. Also, thanks is extended to Brian and Michelle Boyden for the use of the Simpson Sales trailer.

*Other: Dean offered ideas for display of some items presently stored elsewhere or out back to be placed on the front porch. Items include a baggage cart, a dynamite box, a return Johnson egg box, two trunks. Also, he has a plan for the weathervane.

Tuesday Live Night

*Tom reported that the new tent has been ordered and should be available for 7.20.2021. All agreed that the new configuration for set up is working well.

Program/Projects:

*The Program Committee has a list of programs ready to consider for when activities begin.

Fundraising

*Tuesday Night Live is the present fundraising activity, which is made possible by a host of volunteers.

Acquisitions:

*Linda shared a 1950 calendar from the Johnson Pharmacy donated by Andrea Blaisdell. She also reported that the JHS might be the recipient of a Civil War musket complete with a written history of the gun if we want to receive it. It was agreed to accept the gift if offered.

*Tom brought a Riddle Brothers small notebook which he received from Rick Heath.

*Dean brought a box of stuff and requested help in sorting what was relevant for JHS. (Dean, Linda and Lois completed the task after the meeting.)

Next meeting: August 11, 2021 at the Holcomb House. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording