

JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
September 8, 2021 at the HOLCOMB HOUSE

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

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

Secretary's report: The minutes from 8/11/21 were approved as printed.

Treasurer's report: Kelly Vandorn distributed a copy of the monthly report for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 (attached.) One highlight is the \$6,554 of income from Tuesday Night Live, one book sale, and one membership. Kelly estimated the past year surplus would be \$852.

Following discussion: **it was moved, seconded and approved to have Dick request that the Selectboard put the balance (final surplus) into the Historical Society's Reserve Fund.**

Administrative items:

*Opening Holcomb House and hosting schedule – Following discussion about Covid 19 and current concerns with the variant, it was decided that the Holcomb House would be opened by appointment only and masks will be required for all with no exceptions. The sign on the door will state that 24-hour notice is appreciated. The telephone numbers to call will continue to be Dick or Lois. With discussion about using the Holcomb House telephone number, it was agreed that Dick would look into whether the House phone, which is provided by Consolidated Communications, could forward calls to another telephone.

*Social media -

Facebook: Linda reported that the next set of pictures will go on-line next week.

Newsletter: Linda expects the newsletter to be ready for distribution in two weeks.

Webpage: Mary Jean is meeting with Elias Gillen to discuss the virtual tour he will be filming.

VOREC Grant Discussion:

Casey Romero explained that she and Lisa Crews hope to receive one of 25 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grants. They have submitted a letter of interest and expect to hear the results by the end of September at which time they would prepare and submit a complete grant request. Building on the slogan, Johnson: Where the Trails Come Together, Casey laid out their concept of working together with a variety of community groups in town to find better ways to utilize the municipal conserved land areas and water resources. A top priority is replacing a snowmobile, walking bridge which formerly connected Old Mill Park and the Skate Park. The proposed will restore bike, snowmobile and pedestrian access to other trail networks throughout town. Tom was able to give Casey information about the former bridge, which he had helped to build years ago. Duncan shared his and the Trustees interest in developing an interactive walking tour with QR codes at Village sites. There are also historical remnants on most of the municipal properties that may be documented with today's technology and incorporated into the project. An updated town website is also proposed. Casey considered today's visit an introduction to a potential grant and hopes folks will contact her or Lisa Crews with ideas or questions. She will keep us informed.

Tuesday Night Live: Linda reported that 170 pies (7 pieces each) and 8 cakes (15 pieces each) were homemade and donated for Tuesday Night Live. The total amount of money raised from the sale of pie, cake, hotdogs and water totaled \$6,512. Kelly will have the tally of expenses for the October meeting. Gratitude is extended to all the volunteers who made this signature event of the Historical Society a success.

Building committee report:

Maintenance of roof: Duncan reported that Nat Kinney asked him about the roof repair at a recent TNL event so Duncan sent the Building Committee's (8.11.2021) letter to Nat. It was noted that two Historical Society items appeared on the Selectboard agenda for September 7, 2021, Historical Society Planning for Holcomb House and Holcomb House Repairs. (While no JHS Trustee attended the meeting, the discussion can be viewed on You Tube at the Green Mountain Cable Access site.) It was decided that Duncan would review the Selectboard minutes and call a meeting of the Building Committee (Duncan, Dean, & Tom) if action is needed before the October meeting.

Strategic Plan final review: Dick plans to make naming committees a priority action item at the next meeting. Also, the timeline for action items in the strategic plan needs to be prepared in a more readable format which Duncan will do by getting the spreadsheet copied on 11 x 17 sheets for all.

Marvin Award invitation: With the Holcomb House receiving an award from the Lamoille County Planning Commission, all JHS Trustees have been invited to the Awards Ceremony on September 14th. With Dean and Tom being out of town on that date, Duncan, Linda, Kelly, Lois, and Alice plan to attend the event.

Program/Projects: Program committee report had no report.

Fundraising report: No report.

Acquisitions

*Linda Audibert donated pictures of 1) St Johns Church and 2) the reconstruction of the Power House Bridge.

*Dedra Dolan donated eight 6th grade Yearbooks from 2001 to 2018.

*Brenda Jennison Jacobs donated a very old, hand-tied quilt from the Atwell House, home of Louella Jennison.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary