

JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
NOVEMBER 10, 2021 * 9:00 AM * MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Additions to the agenda included: 1) action for mildew on clothing, 2) establishing a Collections Committee, 3) Ad hoc Board Packet Committee, & 4) public notice of meeting requirements.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from October 13, 2021 and October 20, 2021 as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported expenses of \$1,858.39, which included: 1) the annual renewal fee for the JHS website, 2) membership fee to Vermont Historical Society, 3) Letterie's cleaning, and 4) small hardware items from Johnson Hardware Rental, Farm & Garden. Budget sheet filed with minutes.

Following discussion: **it was moved, seconded and approved to endorse the purchase a dehumidifier to replace the defunct one not to exceed \$300 as recommended by the Budget Committee.**

Budget Committee report: Duncan Hastings shared the results of the Budget Committee's recent deliberations. Their budget draft proposes revenue of \$7,920 and expenses of \$10,950 with the amount of money to be raised by taxes for FY2023 at \$3,030. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to send the proposed budget to the Selectboard for their appropriate action.**

Administration:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: **it was moved, seconded, and approved by all to pass over the opening of the Holcomb House to the public.**

*Social media: Following discussion: **it was moved, seconded, and approved to ask Elias Gillen to prepare a video of an introductory tour at the Holcomb House.**

Linda reported that the recent Facebook posting on the Johnson Pharmacy has received more than 3,000 hits and 10 likes. Barbara Backus has created an album featuring the photos.

Standing Committees:

*Building, Grounds, & Facility Development:

+Tom Carney checked the stain glass window and reported that it was by design that it appeared to bow.

+Duncan reported that the new dehumidifier was installed but Tom suggested an adjustment might be needed for better drainage. Duncan volunteered to check and fix.

+Tom reported that he and Dean West cleaned up the parking area, making it ready for winter.

+It was noted that the back window in the West Room did not have storm window and condensation built up during the malfunction of the dehumidifier. Following discussion, **it was moved second and approved (vote 7 yes, 1 no) to purchase a storm window kit and fix the problem.** Tom will purchase kit. The building committee will note the need for a new window when the town is addressing building maintenance.

+Duncan suggested that Jim Rose might have space available for the JHS trailer. He will check.

+Tom and Dean noted that the porch roof needs to be fixed as the water problem (previously noted by the town) is getting worse with the floor boards getting saturated with water. The roof by the front Holcomb House door has a similar problem but to a lesser degree. Noting it is a problem that needs to be addressed by the town, **it was moved, seconded and approved for the President to send a letter to the Selectboard alerting them to the porch roof problem and also the bracing separation by the stairs to Don Garret's apartment.**

*Collections and Program Development: Following discussion of the various goals within the committee, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to establish a Collections Committee within the framework of the Collections and Program Development Committee.** At this time the Collections Committee includes Duncan, Kelly, Linda Jones, Mary Jean Smith, Lois Frey, and Jacob Vandorn. The Program Development Committee is Linda, Alice, & Kelly.

+Following discussion about the mold and mildew problem, **it was moved, second, and approved to get the uniforms and dresses professionally cleaned at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.** DeNoia's has provided a cost estimate and Duncan will check into using the Municipal cleaning service for a second estimate. It was noted that the Collections Committee might want to check out specialty sprays for cleaning surfaces with mildew or mold.

*Revenue Development: The Committee members are Dick and Lois. Dick plans to connect with JHS, Inc. to clarify roles. He sees this JHS committee providing revenue development for a specific purchase. Lois is a member of the JHS, Inc. Board of Directors.

*Membership: Alice reported the Membership Committee will be meeting soon with the annual membership drive fast approaching. The committee is Alice, Linda, Mary Jean, and Lois.

*Second Floor Occupancy Committee report: The Committee reported it has not received official word from the Selectboard in response to their request for authority to move ahead. (It was an action at the September 7, 2021 Selectboard meeting and recorded in their minutes: *Eben moved to authorize the Historical Society committee to come up with a plan that will not cost the taxpayers any money for the Historical Society to occupy the second floor of the Holcomb House, Nat seconded and the motion was passed.*)

*Ad hoc Board Packet Committee: Lois and Duncan are gathering the appropriate materials.

*Open Meeting Law: Following discussion Duncan volunteered to request clarification in writing from Brian Story for meeting notice and minutes requirements for sub-committee meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary