

JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
14 September 2022 * 9:00 AM * Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, Mary Jean Smith, Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn, Dennis Richards, & Lois Frey.
Guests: Dean West, Tom Carney

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

SECRETARY'S REORT: Meeting minutes from 8/10/22: **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the August 10,2022 minutes with one correction** re: Acquisitions from Colleen Putvain included a name correction (Colleen not Pauline) and a postcard by the late Bradley Fox.

TREASURER'S Report: Kelly Vandorn reported Tuesday Night Live income of \$6,325 with expenses of \$444.79 minus a \$150 donation specifically for TNL expenses therefore the total is minus \$294 for expenses. Reported net for 2022 TNL is \$5,880.21 without the \$150 donation. With donation added it is \$6,031.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: The Fall schedule includes September 25th with host Dick Simays. October 9th will feature slides from the Red Hooper Collection hosted by Dean West and Linda Jones and will be held at Jenna's House (with the Holcomb House closed that day.) The October 23rd program will include a cemetery tour hosted by Linda Jones, Alice Whiting, and Kelly Vandorn with Lois Frey remaining at the Holcomb House. Linda Jones will host on November 13th and Dennis Richards on November 27th.

*Social Media:

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported she has the newsletter set to send to Luciana Swenson this day and anticipates a mailing in early November.

Facebook: Linda Jones reported there have been 14 new likes on the Facebook page, which now has more than 1,400 likes.

Webpage: Mary Jean Smith plans to meet with Lydia Putvain to do some adjustments to the JHS webpage.

*Tuesday Night Live: Linda Jones reported that 170 pies and 9 cakes were prepared and donated by 28 volunteer bakers. Other volunteer contributions are of time and include the food servers, hotdog grillers, and Tom's Team of Helpers who set up and took down the TNL canopy etc. every week. All are appreciated. The left-over food supplies were distributed to those interested and willing to make a reasonable donation. The potato chips will be served at the two October JHS programs until they are gone. Dean West reported he has a call into Greg Tatro regarding storage of the trailer. Dean also shared a financial history of Tuesday Night Live prepared by Aggie West. Highlights include a TNL income from 2007 – 2022 of \$63,126.67 for a 15-year average of \$4,208.45 annually. Aggie's report also noted income from 7 Winter Carnival events of \$2,855.99 and also sales for the Sterling VT video and income from Mark's Barn Sale for a total of \$838.50.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*Buildings, Grounds and Facility Development: Tom Carney reported that he has set Dennis Richards up with a building code and a key. It was also noted that the alarm system worked fine when Safe Tech checked; however, they will return on September 21st for a follow-up. Tom and his team of helpers will follow-up after October 8th for transport of the railroad cart. Mary Jean Smith reported that she and Andrea Blaisdell will cut

the front yard rose bush around the end of October. Tom Carney volunteered to check-in with Jason Whitehill about the disposition of the large tree limb on the side lawn of the Holcomb House. It was decided to hang the Johnson Elementary School student-made quilt on the front porch railing of the Holcomb House so it will be visible from the front sidewalk with Tom volunteering to do the task.

*Collections and Program Development: Following discussion about the status of the JHS reserve fund and with the recommendation of the Accessioning Committee, Lois Frey explained what Kofile Technologies work on *The Soldiers of Our Civil Wars* volumes would include: chemical sponge pages, flatten, mend and encapsulate plus remove the front cover to use as first page. Volume I at 421 pages will cost \$2,947 and Volume II with 444 pages will cost \$3,108 for the total of \$6,055. **It was moved, seconded and approved to have Volumes I and II of Frank Leslie's *The Soldier in Our Civil War*, Columbian Memorial Edition, restored and preserved by Kofile Technologies based on their quote of \$6,055 dated 6.23.2022.**

*Revenue Development: No report from Dick Simays.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported two new and one renewed Historical Society memberships.

SECOND FLOOR OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE: The committee is concerned about talk of creating an apartment on the second floor of the Holcomb House. It was decided that Mary Jean will ask Beth Foy to schedule a vote by the Selectboard members to clarify their support or not for no apartment on the upper floors of the Holcomb House.

ACQUISITIONS:

*Dean West brought a Rondeau Family Book donated by Jackie Rondeau. He also delivered the book *A New Sign* to accompany the wooden sign made by Aggie West's Johnson Elementary School class (1984-1955) previously donated.

*Mary Jean Smith delivered a large basket from the Johnson Woolen Mill (circa 1890-early 1900s) used for holding wool products and a Georgia Balch painting from Jeff Barrows. The house is reportedly a Sears & Roebuck Kit home.

*Dick Simays delivered for Lorraine Simays a 1940-1941 *Manuscript* from Johnson Normal School.

*Linda Jones received 2 Talc Mill team baseball bats plus a softball and a baseball bat inscribed with *Winner #80 League* from John Manley. Also, two metal post office boxes used by Don Manley. She also received a St Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad stamp from Bill Perkins. Pam Witherell delivered old measuring cups, an Anacin tin, and two pharmacy bottles plus three record books dated 1875 from the store formerly on Plot Road (in the vicinity of Molly Zap's home.) Barbara Backus delivered a 1949 *Johnsonian* and a scrapbook from Evelyn Davis Menard dated late 1880 to early 1900s, a family heirloom with lots of pictures. Linda plans to scan many photographs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary