

JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
12 October 2022 * 9:00 AM * Holcomb House

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

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9 AM. There were was one addition to the agenda: 2024 Budget Planning.

SECRETARY'S REORT: Meeting minutes from 9/14/22: **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the September 14, 2022 minutes as printed.**

TREASURER'S Report: Kelly Vandorn reported expenses to date in FY 2023 of \$1,970.96, leaving a balance of \$4,824.04. Town Budget approved at 3.1.2022 recorded from July 1 to June 30,2023 attached with minutes on file. Question arose about the costs of telephone, which has been increasing monthly and a buildings and grounds charge of \$360. Kelly will request copies of invoices from Rosemary.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: The schedule includes the October 23rd Whiting-Hill Cemetery tour hosted by Mary Jean Smith, Linda Jones, Alice Whiting, Dick Simays, Dennis Richards, Kelly Vandorn as former Johnson residents and introduced by Duncan Hastings starting at 2 PM at the Holcomb House. The Holcomb House will open at 1 PM that date hosted by Lois Frey. Linda Jones will host on November 13th and Dennis Richards on November 27 from 1 to 3 PM. Holcomb House will be closed during December except if there is a community Jubilee as in the past. Holcomb House is always opened by appointment.

*Work on 2024 Budget: Kelly Vandorn will contact the former committee members, Dean West, Duncan Hastings, and Dick Simays to set a meeting date.

*Social Media:

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported she has the newsletter on-schedule and she plans to prepare it for mailing on 20 October 2022.

Facebook: Linda Jones reported she is working on a new set of pictures.

Webpage: Mary Jean Smith has met with Lydia Putvain, who has attended a website training and has added to the JHS webpage and made some adjustments. Mary Jean recommended to find the JHS webpage: Google Johnson Historical Society. Kelly Vandorn reported Jacob Vandorn has fixed the sound on the videos using an editing program.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings, Grounds and Facility Development:

*Tom Carney reported that Don Garrett has cleaned out the gutters. He is unable to reach some areas due to the lack of an extension ladder. It was decided that Tom would place a request for a 12-24 foot extension ladder on Front Porch Forum. Another suggestion was to have Don request assistance from the Town or Village Public Works Departments. The alarm system is still an issue with Don noting that the telephone wires on the outside wall, east side of the building need attention perhaps causing the malfunction. Dick noted that the porch project work contracted by the Town was not totally completed previously and remains to be done as there is a potential for more damage in the affected area. Dick will follow-up with the Selectboard/Brian Story.

Tom also reported that he and Don turned off the water on the second floor except for the tub, which will likely require a plumber.

Collections and Program Development:

*Kelly Vandorn shared details about the cemetery tour including portrayals of deceased Johnson citizens John Weir, Lucy Scott, Eunice Huntington, Mary Chesamore and others are being researched. She has received a heritage bonnet pattern from Sue Lovering and Alice Whiting reported she found several skirts at the Thrift Shop. October 23, 2022 will offer an interesting and informative presentation by the Historical Society.

*Lois Frey reported that the October 9th Open House, which replaced the postponed Franklin "Red " Hooper program, highlighted the Civil War collection. Of special interest, Dan Perkins showed those present a Civil War pistol, a Perkins family heirloom as his family heritage has a Civil War connection. As often happens, visitors shared information about the Johnson community in earlier days with each other.

Revenue Development: No report from Dick Simays.

Membership: Alice Whiting reported the 2023 membership letter will be prepared after the newsletter is mailed on October 20, 2022.

SECOND FLOOR OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE: Members of the second floor occupancy committee attended the October 3, 2022 Selectboard meeting, where Mary Jean Smith led the discussion with the Selectboard members. See Selectboard minutes on-line, item #10 for details. More to follow in the future.

ACQUISITIONS:

*Linda Jones has created an extensive notebook about the Merle Davis family going back to 1891 with photos and more donated by Arthur Davis Jr. including a framed copy of *Bend in the River* by Doris Stearns. Also a black notebook of Davis genealogy donated by Evelyn Davis Menard.

*Alice Whiting has 12 books covering the history of the United Church from the 1800s and beyond. She asked if the Historical Society was interested in having them. All agree it would be a very good addition to the JHS collection.

*Lois Frey reported that she has received via email an extensive packet of scanned letters from Austin Hicklin, whose greatx2 grandfather was Stephen Andrew Sargent (1844–1912), son of Samuel Sargent (1793–1866) and Mary Ann Lunt (1803–1893). Stephen went to Kansas about 1865 and did well in the cattle business. The letters are transcriptions of the letters he received from his family in the 1860s members of whom are buried in the Evergreen Ledge Cemetery.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary