

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

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

Mary Jean Smith called the meeting to order at 9 AM. There was one addition to the agenda: Johnson weathervane.

SECRETARY'S REORT: Meeting minutes from 10/12/22: **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the October 12, 2022 minutes with one correction: The books covering the history of the United Church Alice Whiting have a start date in the 1800s not the 1700s.**

TREASURER'S Report: Kelly Vandorn reported expenses with of \$157.77 from October's report. There were \$45 in donations from the tip jar following the Cemetery Program. She noted bills are going up each month. Budget sheet dated 11.7.2022 is attached with minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: Linda Jones will host on November 13th and Dennis Richards on November 27th. The Johnson Jubilee is scheduled for Friday, December 9 2022 with the time most likely 4 to 8 pm. Details should be available soon. It was decided to plan the JHS participation. The Holcomb House decorations will go up on Sunday, November 27th starting at 1 PM. It was suggested the lights on the railroad baggage wagon on the front porch would be a nice addition. Tom volunteered to check for outside electrical connections. On December 9th Alice, Kelly, Linda, & Mary Jean volunteered to make cookies; Lois, the hot cider. The schedule will be 4 to 6 pm: Lois, Kelly, & Mary Jean then at 6 to 8 pm Dennis, Leslie, & Linda.

*Social Media:

Newsletter: Linda Jones the next newsletter will be published in January 2023.

Facebook: Linda Jones reported that all the pictures presently on Facebook were taken around town, things you may not notice on a daily basis but they are there. Great job Linda.

Webpage: Mary Jean Smith will let Lydia Putvain know about needed changes to the JHS webpage including correcting the Holcomb House hours when open and who to contact to visit at other times.

BUDGET 2023:

Kelly reported that she along with Duncan Hastings, Dean West and Dick Simays are the budget committee and she plans to set a meeting soon. She has contacted Duncan who has the paperwork from last year, which they can use as a starting point.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*Buildings, Grounds and Facility Development: Tom Carney reported his Team of Helpers moved the railroad baggage cart to the Holcomb House porch and the Mills gravestone to the back of the parking lot. He has thanked Erika at Jenna's Goods for their support for the storage. A proper placement of the stone will be completed in the Spring. Tom also reported he has turned on low the heat in the Carriage Room. Tom and Don Garrett have shut-off the upstairs water except for at the tub, where they are having location difficulties.

*Mary Jean reported that she and Steve Smith have cut the rose bush in the front yard as recommended by Andrea Blaisdell.

*Via email, Dick Simays shared the letter he sent to Selectboard Chair, Beth Foy regarding the repairs needed to be done at the Holcomb House. Needs listed include:

1) The front porch roof has water issues and a need for soffit repair. 2) The small front porch has rot issues and needs repair or replacement. 3) The rear emergency exit stairs need support redesign and replacement. 4) The east wall and roof needs insulating to prevent condensation, freezing, thawing and leaking through the ceiling.

Beth responded that the list will be helpful for understanding budget considerations.

*Weathervane request from Duncan Hastings. Via email, Duncan shared a picture of the weathervane found in the attic of the Old Town Hall now Lowe Lecture Hall, which he has now repaired. He asked two questions: Should it be painted and should it be displayed? Following discussion all agreed that it should not be painted and displaying at the Municipal Building if allowed would be terrific. Thank you, Duncan. Dean West reminded all that this weathervane is the property of the Historical Society (which should be noted when the weathervane is displayed) and the weathervane presently atop the Lowe Lecture Hall belongs to the Town of Johnson. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Duncan's offer to arrange to have the weathervane displayed at the Municipal Building with a write-up about it and an acknowledgement that the weathervane is exhibited courtesy of the Johnson Historical Society.** Lois will respond to Duncan.

*Collections and Program Development: Linda Jones and Dean West will likely schedule the Red Hooper program during February making the connection to sugaring. Details need to be worked out.

*Revenue Development: No report from Dick Simays.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported that she along with Linda and Lois will be preparing the annual membership letter.

SECOND-FLOOR OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE:

Chair of the second-floor occupancy committee (SFOC) Mary Jean Smith asked each Trustee what they think should be reported back to the Selectboard in response to their request to the JHS Trustees at the October 3, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Beth's request may seem excessive; but it offers bits of opportunity. Safety and security need to be addressed. An overview of how to proceed with a building assessment for needed repairs would be helpful. Perhaps Jim McDowell could offer some advice. A timely response is important. It was decided that Mary Jean will convene a meeting of the SFOC committee soon.

Racial Justice & Social Equity Committee Request:

Lois Frey was contacted by Sophia Berard asking if any Historical Society member would be interested in joining a group planning to draft a land acknowledgement statement for Johnson. No one wanted to take on another project at this time.

ACQUISITIONS:

*Linda Jones added five pictures circa 1940s from Bruce and Mary Beard to the collection.

*Alice Whiting shared a proposed agreement for the loan of Church Records (date 1815 & beyond.) All agreed to accept the document for signature by both parties.

*Dean West delivered several wooden handled shoe and harness repair tools donated by Jackie Bailey.

*Lois Frey added a packet of information sent by John Lord, now residing in Underhill. The information documents that Hannah Leffingwell Waterman, who is buried at Whiting-Hill Cemetery is a relative of Benedict Arnold.

Other: Having exhibited her interest in the Johnson Historical Society by attending two meetings and assisting with projects, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to forward Leslie Martin's name to the Selectboard for their consideration for appointment to the Historical Society.**

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

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary