

JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
8 February 2023 * 9 AM * Holcomb House

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

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9 AM. There were three additions to the agenda: map, weathervane, and new computer recommendations.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Meeting minutes from 1.11.2023. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the January 11, 2023 minutes as printed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly Vandorn reported year to date income \$10,326 with expenses of \$9,916. The reserve balance is \$35,120. Expenses included the cost of preservation by Kofile Inc. at \$6,055 and costs to Jenna's Promise for the January 22, 2023 JHS program. Income generated on that date was \$341. At least 111 people attended and Linda Jones and Dean West presented an excellent program about Franklin "Red" Hooper and his role in the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: February 26, 2023 Linda Jones with Alice Whiting. March 12, 2023 Linda Jones with Leslie Martin. March 26, 2023 -Program A Peace Corps Experience by Ben and Stacy Waterman. April 9, 2023 Closed for Easter. April 23, 2023 To be announced.

*Social Media:

Facebook: Linda Jones reported a new posting on Facebook features the Johnson High School Class of 1965 and 1966.

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported that she has received the copy and plans to print and mail the newsletter during the week of February 13th.

* Report to Town Meeting: Lois Frey reported that the report was completed and sent to Rosemary Audibert on January 16, 2023.

* Budget: Dick Simays reported that Brian Story requested a JHS budget change in revenue in late January which Dick was not given enough time to call a special meeting for discussion. He will send a message to Brian requesting that in the future enough time should be given for JHS and other volunteer groups to respond in a timely manner.

Following discussion, it was recommended that 1) JHS be sure to move the \$200 item in the budget to the reserve fund and 2) consider asking the town to modify the terms of the JHS reserve fund to allow transfer of surplus year-end funds annually.

*Alarm status: Follow-up needs to be continued with the Sheriff's Dispatch to assure the telephone connection is working.

*Map: When cleaning the closet, Linda Jones and Lois Frey located an early wall map, which included Johnson in the 1880s and had been donated by the Oread Club. It is in very poor condition, primarily around the edges but the actual town markings are fairly good. It was decided that JHS should keep the map, not sell it. Alice Whiting volunteered to get an estimate to restore it from Mary Jean Davis, who restored a similar map for JHS.

*Weathervane: Duncan Hastings reported that he is building a cupola as a base to display the weathervane now that both the Village Trustees and the Selectboard have approved its placement in the Atrium of the Municipal Building. He said a plaque or sign would be appropriate. Linda Jones will look for an old picture of the Lowe Lecture Hall. Perhaps a write-up could include a history of the weathervane. Dean West suggested:

Discovered and rescued by Johnson Historical Society in belfry/cupola of Town Hall (now Lowe Lecture Hall) on 9.30.2016. Believed to have been designed and constructed by a local blacksmith c. 1832 when building was erected. Repaired in 2023 by Duncan Hastings. Duncan and Dean will follow-up.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*Building, Grounds, & Facility Development: Tom Carney reported he plans to try again to open the Beard safe. He and Dean West have the combination. If they continue to have trouble, Dick knows a person who may be able to assist. It was noted that ice continues to be a problem, both on the walk by the entrance and icicles from the gutters.

*Collections and Program Development: Program Development: Leslie Martin has experience doing genealogy and is willing to help folks learn the basics. She will be hosting with Linda Jones on March 12, 2023 and will welcome interested folks to learn more. Lois Frey reported that she picked up the two Civil War volumes from Kofile, Inc and they are on display at the Holcomb House.

*Revenue Development: Lois Frey reported that the fundraising committee met on February 6, 2023 with Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn, Leslie Martin, Linda Jones and herself attending. They would like to publish booklets on various topics, which will be prepared in-house and sold for a small price. They would like to purchase a binding machine with a starter package. **It was moved, seconded and approved to purchase the binding machine and starter kit, not to exceed \$100.** Leslie Martin will coordinate with Kelly Vandorn to make the purchase. The committee also discussed plans for selling pie and cake sale at Town Meeting.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported results on the Membership Drive to date: 43 responses to date. One donation was made in recognition of Tom Carney for his work on the Board of Trustees.

*New computer recommendations: Jacob Vandorn prepared a list of recommendations for replacing the office computer. **Following discussion about the capacity and quality of product needed, it was moved, seconded, and approved to purchase a laser, color printer and a computer not to exceed the \$1,300 in the budget.**

SECOND FLOOR OCCUPANCY (SFO) COMMITTEE: The Committee has not met; however, Dean West prepared a chronology of the JHS financial obligations to address some of the questions raised by Selectboard members at their October 3, 2022 meeting. Dean also developed a list of what is needed on the second floor for the JHS to accept occupancy. With help from Dick Simays, the SFO Committee will refine Dean's information before participating at a future Selectboard meeting.

ACQUISITIONS:

Linda Jones delivered 1) Franklin "Red" Hooper's license plate (during his legislative years) donated by Mark Woodward. 2) Dave Sargent made 2 copies of a handout when Red was running for the legislature, which he copied on their wedding announcement because it was basically the same color as the original. Also, info that Red was game warden and selectman. 3) A parade picture that shows the old gas station with a sign that says Laraway Community. According to Jim Tomlinson, Texaco leased, rented, or let Laraway use the building for students to learn about cars and do some work on them. He said it was about 1975 when B&J scoop shop was across the road. 4) a picture of the original Powerhouse dam. 5) a picture of the Collins Quimby house, which was on the Richard and Sheila Cross property.

Mary Jean Smith donated 1) a Grand Union vest from 2000 worn by her daughter and 2) Steve Smith's high school gym shorts from the mid-1960s.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary