

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
8 March 2023 at 9 AM at the Holcomb House

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

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Meeting minutes from 2.08.2023 as printed. **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the 8 February 2023 minutes as printed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly Vandorn reported the income from Town Meeting Day food sales was \$441. She also reported she did not receive a report from Rosemary. Purchases that will show up next month will include two issues of the newsletter and purchase of a computer and a printer.

SECOND FLOOR OCCUPANCY (SFO) COMMITTEE: Committee chair, Mary Jean Smith reported that she, along with Dean West, Tom Carney and Don Garrett met with Don Blake for an assessment of the Holcomb House. Don Blake found the basement to be structurally okay. The stairs to the second floor would need to be stabilized and would need railings on each side if used by the public. It was noted that chair stair-lifts are no longer allowed in public buildings. He also said a renovation of the bathroom would cost \$25,00 to \$30,000. The back "squishy-floor" room would need a support column to stabilize floor. The other three rooms are in good shape. Mary Jean also reported she and the others had an appointment later this date with the Assistant Fire Marshall, Shawn Goodell.

Lois Frey shared a notice sent to the Historical Society about the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) which will provide staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding to help communities become more energy resilient, reduce energy use and operating costs, and curb greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle charging, weatherization, thermal improvements, fuel switching, and enhanced building comfort in municipal buildings and facilities.

Act 172 authorized MERP \$45 million to support dependable and sustainable connections to critical municipal services for all Vermonters. Buildings owned by cities, towns, fire districts, incorporated villages, and all other governmental incorporated units except for school districts are eligible for the program. The program will provide the following funding opportunities: 1) Free building energy assessments 2) Up to \$4,000 grants for energy resilience community capacity building, and 3) Up to \$500,000 grants for building renovation projects for weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric alternatives. Local support will be provided by Victoria Hellwig at Lamoille County Planning Commission. The Public Library is interested in having the Town pursue the program as well. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to have the JHS President send a letter to the Selectboard urging participation in the Municipal Energy Resilience Program including the Holcomb House.** Dean reminded all that an assessment was conducted by Efficiency Vermont a number of years ago that recommended insulation be added to the East Room wall, which could help with the icing problem. (None of the recommendations were completed due to no state funding since there were financial restrictions based on the income of the renter.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule: March 12, 2023 Linda Jones with Leslie Martin. March 26, 2023-Program:

A Peace Corps Experience by Ben and Stacey Waterman. April 9, 2023 Closed for Easter. April 23, 2023 Program: The Oread Club with Alice Whiting. May 21, 2023 Program: About Gardens with details to follow.

*Social Media:

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported that the February 2023 was printed and mailed on February 22, 2023.

Facebook: Linda Jones reported that working with Barbara Backus the next posting on Facebook may be the second week of March.

Webpage: Mary Jean Smith reported that working with Lydia Putvain and Jacob Vandorn the newsletter and the Red Hooper presentation are posted on the webpage.

*Computer, printer, software replacement: Kelly Vandorn reported that working with Jacob Vandorn, the computer was ordered at a cost of \$794 and has shipped. Following discussion, the HP Color Laser Jet Pro MFP M283fdw with the regular toner and a reading disc were recommended. **It was moved, seconded and approved to add an addition \$100 for the equipment fund.**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*Building, Grounds, & Facility Development: Lois Frey shared a letter to the Historical Society from Efficiency Vermont before June 30th when their program ends. Passed the letter to Mary Jean Smith for the Building Committee.

*Collections and Program Development: Programs set as previously discussed.

*Revenue Development: Leslie Martin reported that she and Mary Jean Smith plan to bind selected newsletters and in time other historical information briefs (up to 10 pages each) to sell to the public for about \$5 each. They plan to start with runs of 5 copies each using the new binding machine.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported that she received 4 memberships and deposited \$150 with Rosemary Audibert.

ACQUISITIONS:

Alice Whiting delivered a framed colored photograph of the Power House Bridge donated by Ken and Pam Locke.

Linda Jones shared a thank you note from the Jenna's Promise House Team.

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

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary