

Johnson Historical Society Meeting  
10 May 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, Tom Carney, Duncan Hastings.

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the 12 April 2023 minutes as printed.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kelly Vandorn shared a copy of the JHS Budget sheet dated 5.9.2023 (attached to minutes) which shows a balance of \$32,900.88. Expenditures included payment for the computer, printer, and supplies. Following discussion about having a credit card system for payments to JHS, Leslie Martin volunteered to look into it (perhaps the Square system) for the next JHS meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS: It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the slate of officers identified at the April 10, 2023 meeting: President, Dick Simays; Vice President, Mary Jean Smith; Secretary, Lesley Martin; Treasurer, Kelly Vandorn; and Membership Secretary, Alice Whiting.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

\*Holcomb House hosting schedule: There were no changes to the schedule: May 14, 2023 House open with Dennis Richards and Leslie Martin doing genealogy. May 21, 2023 Garden Program: June 11, 2023 Dick Simays and Mary Jean Smith. June 25, 2023 Lois Frey and Alice Whiting. All from 1 pm to 3 pm.

**\*Social Media:**

Facebook: Linda Jones reported a new Facebook page is ready for posting.

Newsletter: Linda Jones reported she has sent the newsletter file to Luciana Swenson in Florida, who will get the final print back to VT soon.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

\*Building, Grounds, & Facility Development: Mary Jean Smith reported progress on the garden with space marked out for planting including two peonies, iris, and stellas. Kelly Vandorn has gathered information on common historical perennials, which she will use at the upcoming Garden party talk.

Tom Carney reported he will replace the American flag by Memorial Day.

**\*Collections and Program Development:**

Kelly Vandorn reported the Garden Social will feature homemade (by the Vandorn family) ice cream. Alice Whiting volunteered to make chocolate sauce. Other toppings by Trustees welcomed.

Duncan Hastings complemented Alice Whiting for her excellent talk on the Oread Club. He also reported that Dean West researched and Matt Seasholtz made a blue ball for the top of the weathervane, which is now ready for display. It is understood that Beth Foy offered to purchase the plaque and would like wording from the Historical Society. Dean West has prepared some historical information so will help with preparing it. Tom Carney reported the he and Lois Frey talked about having a Viet Nam era dress uniform added to the military uniforms collection. All agreed. Lois Frey will post a request on Front Porch Forum.

**\*Revenue Development:** The raffle which is set to begin sometime in June is awaiting word of a second prize. It was agreed that tickets would sell for \$5 each.

Leslie Martin reported she will have a prototype for historical booklets at next meeting.

**\*Membership:** Alice Whiting reported one family memberships this month. She also reported that 44% of the memberships this year included an added donation.

**Second-floor Occupancy Committee:** Mary Jean Smith reported that she met with Lynda Hill, who is preparing a cost estimate to paint the walls and kitchen cabinets in a neutral color. The paint is being donated. Total project estimate is \$8,000. Proposal will be ready for next meeting. The right of use for the building needs to be updated. Lois Frey said she believes the Library's memorandum of understanding is a good model for coordinating with the Selectboard.

**Naming of new road.** In response to a town road naming request from Brian Story, Duncan Hastings explained the Society's involvement (dating back to 2015) in the process. Following discussion and with insufficient information, **it was moved, seconded and approved to have the President respond that the Trustees voted to decline the offer to suggest a road name for this request.**

**ACQUISITIONS:** Pam Locke donated news clippings with Johnson Grist Mill, Woolen Mill & C. H. Stearns reference.

Alice Whiting two business slips dated 1905 & 1907 (Johnson Mills & L.B. Worth.) She contributed Mattie Whiting Baker's (so inscribed) Methodist Hymnal.

Linda Jones provided CD of a Kurt Herman song about Johnson's Winter Carnival.

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

Meeting minutes prepared by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary