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JOHNSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING. DEC 13, 2023  
HOLCOMB HOUSE

Board Members Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn, Mary Jean Smith, Lois Frey, Dennis Richards.

Guest Present: Dean West, Tom Carney

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Meeting Agenda reviewed and accepted.

Meeting minutes from 11/8/23 reviewed and approved.

Treasures Report: Kelly reported having just received financial information. Information contained appeared to be accurate. Balance reported as \$35,295.11. Kelly will review in more detail later. Purchasing of voice recorder discussed. Selection made and approved. Kelly will contact Rosemary regarding the ordering of a voice recorder.

Discussion of maintenance items with Town Administrator: Town Administrator notified Historical Society Board (via Kelly) he would not be able to attend for discussion of maintenance items. Building, Grounds and Facility Chair requested to go on the record expressing disappointment the Town Administrator was not able to attend. List of maintenance items had been presented to the Town Administrator by the Building, Grounds and Facilities Chair. Town Administrator to present Maintenance items list to Town of Johnson Selectboard at upcoming select board meeting. Town Administrator had suggested tagging money to reduce the chance of it being reallocated. It was discussed that there may be a need to clarify with the Town Administrator that Johnson Historical Society Inc is not a part of the town. Review of previous years Town Reports showed funds allocated for Holcomb House maintenance, although allocated fund have not been

used for Holcomb House maintenance. Board decided it would like to attempt another meeting with the Town Administrator.

Nothing new regarding FY25 budget

Request for input on naming of roads (driveway and/or parking lot at VSC Johnson College Apartments) for 911 purposes. Requestor recommended bird names. List of names reviewed with a few avian alternatives entertained. Board approved original list of bird names.

Upcoming Holcomb House hosting schedule:  
Jan 14th - Dennis, Jan 28th - Dick, Feb 11th - Linda  
Possibility of changing day of Open House discussed.

Social Media: Upcoming newsletter is still being put together. Picture of the Library has been posted on Facebook.

Municipal Energy Assessment of the Holcomb House on Dec 21st at 9AM.

Lois received a notice from Front Porch Forum as to policy regarding postings by non-profits. Determined a need to clarify with Front Porch Forum that Johnson Historical Society is a Municipal Entity, not a non-profit.

Collections: Johnson Jubilee was considered highly successful. Large crowd stopped into the Holcomb House. Estimated around 50 people.

Gene Richards, Owner of Johnson Woolen Mills, has comment to Tom Carney about the possibility of giving a tour of the mill to the Historical Society. Many items of historical significance are still in storage at the Woolen Mills. Tom Carney will attempt to arrange possible dates for a tour.

Program Committee: Proposals for upcoming programs/presentations.

- January - Cemeteries
- February - Blacksmithing
- March - Nadeau's Legacy
- April - Johnson Woolen Mills
- May - Buggyman Antiques

Membership: Received about 47 responses in membership drive. Discussion of some form of recognition for acknowledging long term supporters.

Second Floor Occupancy Committee: 2nd floor is starting to be used for storage. Thanks expressed to Tom Carney and his crew for moving items to 2nd floor to make room for displays needed for Johnson Jubilee. Work on 2nd floor front 3 rooms delayed due to lack of response from contractors. Dean West expressed concern that items put into storage may eventually be overlooked and/or forgotten. Discussion of a need for rotating items for display. Should shelving and/or tables be obtained for 2nd floor storage to prevent items be stored on the floor. If the 2nd floor is only to be used for storage and not display, less work may be needed to repair/upgrade area. Use of Beards Hardware counter considered ideal spot for displays on main floor.

Discussion about the Town Administrator's comment of preferring to not use old agreement with Town of Johnson regarding Historical Societies' use of the Holcomb House. Johnson Historical Society Board sees value in old agreement and does not wish to disregard it.

No new acquisitions

No new business

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.