

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
12 June 2024 at 9AM
Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Mary Jean Smith, Alice Whiting, Linda Jones, Mike Dunham, & Lois Frey.
Regrets: Kelly Vandorn. Guests: Dean West, Tom Carney, and Duncan Hastings at 11 AM.

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes from 8 May 2024 as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn submitted a budget print-out noting that all looked fine.

Administrative Items:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule through June 2024:

Friday, 14 June from 9 am to noon hosted by Dick Simays

Sunday, 23 June from 1 to 3 pm hosted by Linda Jones

Visitation throughout the summer will be available by appointment. Call any JHS Trustee to make arrangements for a visit.

*Social Media:

Linda Jones reported the newsletter has been mailed at a cost of about \$76. The feedback has been very complementary. Next newsletter will be created for September 2024.

Mary Jean Smith reported that the website is up to date. She will add the Tuesday Night Live schedule when it is available.

Tuesday Night Live Planning: Linda Jones has organized the supplies and is completing her replacement needs list to send to Rosemary Audibert. Lois Frey has sent the annual request to McKenzie Country Classics Donation Committee. The trailer is now parked at the Holcomb House, ready for July 9th.

Standing Committee Reports

* Buildings, Grounds, and Facility Development:

Mary Jean Smith has followed up with Tom Galinat about the mowing at the Holcomb House. She and her grandchildren have "spruced-up" the flower beds and done some weeding.

Tom Carney has met with Steve Stancliff, a local carpenter, who will be available to do the needed Holcomb House tasks after haying.

*Collections & Program Development

Program Development: The Antiques Roadshow on May 26th was successful with some interesting items presented and bringing-in \$275 for the Historical Society. Some folks stopped by just to view the military uniforms displayed for Memorial Day. It was a successful event.

Collections: Following discussion it was decided that the Accessioning Committee will host a planning session on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 9 AM to discuss next steps for storage and the use of the upstairs.

Where do we go from here? All are welcome to bring a list of ideas and possibilities to help create the next, best steps for using the Holcomb House space.

*Revenue Development: The Antique Road Show generated \$275. Lois Frey reported depositing \$25 from two copies of Sterling: A Vermont Mountain Town by Deanna French.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported no new memberships. Lois Frey reported two visitors to the Holcomb House on May 31st took membership forms when they left.

Second Floor Report: Mary Jean Smith and Dick Simays reported that several items from the May 8th "to-do tasks" list have been accomplished highlighted by smoke alarms are all installed and the kitchen lights are fixed and all bulbs are LED. Duncan Hastings had looked at the railing project and had a couple of ideas but not a specific plan. The entry foyer floor covering was discussed. Dean West suggested that the left-over flooring from the main building may be sufficient to replace the dreadful carpet. Mary Jean will follow-up

Discussion: Historical Preservation for Certified Local Government Certification:

At the request of Randall Szott, Lois Frey introduced the topic of the Certified Local Government program. Randall was asking if the Historical Society had an interest and/or the capacity to take on a new venture. Mary Jean shared information she had found about the topic including an ordinance sample from the Village of Cambridge. Following discussion, it was the consensus of those present that the Johnson Historical Society saw the benefit of such a designation for its funding potential and would consider having a representative on-board if a group of volunteers wanted to lead the project. Considering other community stakeholders could make a more representative committee. Lois will respond to Randall's email.

Open Meeting Law: Dick Simays shared a message about the Open Meeting Law, from Tom Galinat stating the biggest change is the new requirement for hybrid (in-person AND virtual) meetings for all board, commissions, and committee meetings to have all meetings recorded and those recordings available to the public by posting it in a designated electronic location. The Bill can be found at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/BILLS/S-0055/S-0055%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf> Tom plans to discuss implementation options at the June 17th Selectboard meeting.

Acquisitions:

Linda Jones donated a St John' Women's Club Cookbook (1977) which she purchased at a Yard Sale. Linda also reported that she followed up with Fred Mecke, who inquired about the Johnson Railway Station. He donated a professional copy of a slip tag and baggage tag from the St Johnsbury & Lake Champlain Railroad Company (pre-1948.) Linda continues to share information with Mr. Mecke.

Other: Linda Jones reported that she and Dean West met with Michael Thompson and Jane Montgomery following the graveside service for their brother, Philip W. Thompson. Linda was able to provide a password so they could open some of Philip's files, which contain extensive historical materials about Johnson. Linda will review and scan many papers and photos for the Historical Society. Linda will continue working with Michael.

Duncan Hastings stopped by to present Alice Whiting with the Lamoille County Planning Commission's Life Achievement Award, which was awarded to Alice on June 11, 2024. Congratulations Alice!

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at 9 AM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary