

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
8 August 2024 at 9AM
Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Alice Whiting, Linda Jones, Mike Dunham, Kelly Vandorn, & Lois Frey.
Regrets: Mary Jean Smith. Guests: Liz Kaufman - VT Studio Center, Dean West.

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 10 July 2024 as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported the budget is in fine shape at year end although the expenses exceeded the proposed budget by \$1,000. The final numbers should be available at the September meeting; however, Kelly estimates a balance of about \$30,000.

Vermont Studio Center Walking Tour: Liz Kaufman, Community Engagement Coordinator at the Vermont Studio Center shared information about a project to prepare write-ups about each of the historic buildings on their campus and place them on podiums to create a walking tour showcasing their property including their pollinator garden. The Trustees were enthusiastic about the proposed project and offered to help by providing information from long-time Johnson residents with knowledge of past owners and uses of the buildings that have been preserved. Liz will coordinate with Dick as the plans evolve.

Administrative Items:

*Holcomb House Hosting Schedule:

September 13th 9 am to noon Lois Frey and September 22nd 1 pm to 3 pm Dick Simays.

Lois Frey reported that the Scavenger Hunt coordinated by Kristen MacDowell as part of the Library's summer program on August 8th was enthusiastically received by a few youngsters. Copies of the scavenger sheet are at the Holcomb House welcome desk if other visitors are interested.

*Social Media:

Linda Jones reported that a new Facebook post will be coming soon.

Kelly Vandorn reported that Jacob Vandorn is stepping aside from his volunteer video editing of the JHS programs. He has spent innumerable hours completing all the programs recorded to date. He has done a wonderful job for which the Trustees extend their appreciation.

Standing Committee Reports:

* Buildings, Grounds, and Facility Development: Kelly Vandorn reported that the Lettieri's have done a clean-up of the second floor including kitchen shelves, windowsills, windows, woodwork, and stairway railing.

*Collections & Program Development: Linda Jones reported that Susan Richardson will give a talk about Snowflake Bentley on October 27th. She plans to check the availability of Jenna's House for the Sunday afternoon talk. Other suggested programs were a talk about the history of Manchester Lumber (Mike will look into the availability of appropriate representatives of the business.) A program featuring paintings and prints of Johnson covered bridges is another proposed idea. The Program Committee will continue their work.

*Revenue Development: Lois Frey shared the total sales figures for Tuesday Night Live to date (\$3,703.) In spite of the weather, the income is above last year at this time and we have sold out of pie and cake several times, which we aim to do. As always, we appreciate our volunteer bakers as well as our on-site work crew, who make this event such a success.

2024 raffle tickets have been distributed to all Trustees, Mary Jean has posted a raffle promotion on the JHS webpage. It is never too soon to purchase your tickets. Contact any JHS Trustee.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported one membership renewal.

Second Floor Report: No report

Acquisitions: There were no new acquisitions; however, Mike Dunham requested help with bringing the antique bedframe (discussed previously) to the Holcomb House. He will check with Tom Carney to arrange a crew to help with the move. It was noted that Dick Simays fixed the white easel and it now is set in the East room with two displays on it. Thank you, Dick.

Other: John Manley shared a copy of a form for accepting acquisitions that might be a helpful template for the Historical Society. The Secretary will file the document until needed. Thank you, John. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 9 AM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Secretary