

Johnson Historical Society Meeting  
8 January 2025 at 9AM  
Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, Mary Jean Smith, Mike Dunham and Lois Frey.  
Regrets: Alice Whiting & Kelly Vandorn. Guests: Dean West.

Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Following review of the agenda no items were added.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes from 11 December 2024.**

Treasurer's Report: There was no budget report.

Administrative Items:

\*Holcomb House hosting schedule 2025: Dick Simays, January 10, 2025, 9 AM to noon. Linda Jones, January 26, 2025, 1 to 3 PM. Mary Jean Smith, February 14, 2025, 9 AM to noon. Lois Frey, February 23, 2025, 1 to 3 PM. Holcomb House may be opened by appointment at any time.

\*Social Media: Linda Jones reported that in the last 28 days the JHS Facebook page had 1,596 followers, reaching 861 folks who saw the post in the same time period.

Linda Jones has prepared the Winter 2025 newsletter, which is presently being reviewed and will be sent for next steps soon.

Standing Committee Reports:

\*Buildings, Grounds, and Facility Development: Following discussion about the requirement from the Preservation Trust of Vermont to conduct a Conditions Assessment on the Holcomb House before making any grants to the JHS, **it was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate \$750 (Johnson's share of the project,) from the Historical Society's budget to accept the offer for Beth Miller, Architect to conduct the assessment.** Mary Jean Smith will follow-up with Randall Szott sharing the consensus of the Trustees that a whole or partial reimbursement from the Selectboard toward the \$750 fee would be appreciated.

Mary Jean Smith recommended that the next step before opening the second floor for exhibition space is to invite State Fire Marshall, Shawn Goodell for a walk-through inspection to learn what would be needed. She will schedule the visit and notify the Trustees.

Following discussion about the original, hardwood floor at the bottom of the stairway, it was decided to reconsider the previous floor options and request an estimate from Rick Emery to refinish the floor. There is a small hole in the floor which Duncan Hastings volunteered to make a plug to close it.

\*Collections & Program Development:

Lois Frey reported that the Accessioning Committee will continue its work on the first Monday monthly. The next session will be February 3, 2025 at 9 AM.

Linda Jones reported that the Program Committee is aiming for a January 26, 2025 program.

\*Revenue Development: No news to report.

\*Membership: Alice Whiting sent a report with the results to date of the 2025 membership appeal:

There were 39 renewals and 1 new membership (\$2,030) with 5 donations to the general operating fund generating \$275. Alice anticipates more responses as they usually trickle in for several months or more.

Acquisitions:

There were no acquisitions.

Other: In addition to the 28-day Facebook report, Linda Jones reported folks in eleven towns and nine countries including Canada, Mexico, France, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, United Kingdom, Vietnam and the United States have visited the JHS Facebook page.

Also, Linda Jones, Dean West, and Mary Jean Smith have put together a presentation which they will deliver at the Johnson Fire Department's Annual Meeting later in January.

Lois Frey shared an invitation from the Milton (VT) Historical Society to attend a Historical Roundtable on April 12, 2025 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Lois plans to attend and will send a reply to Milton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secondary.

*Next Meeting:* Wednesday, 12 February 2025 at 9 AM at the Holcomb House.