

Johnson Historical Society Meeting
12 February 2025 at 9AM
Holcomb House

Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, Mary Jean Smith, Alice Whiting, Kelly Vandorn and Lois Frey.
Regrets: Mike Dunham. 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 1.8.2025 as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn has received a list of expenses but not a financial report with the current balance. She prepared a cost estimate for changing internet and telephone to Fidium Fiber using a quote from 1.7.2025. The cost would be \$60 per month for one year. Price to increase by \$20 after the first year to \$80. The breakdown is \$40 per month for 100Mbit speed internet (includes Wi-Fi router \$10 per month rental) and \$20 per month for unlimited local and long-distance phone service with caller ID & voicemail.) They will provide free installation and no fee to switch from consolidated. No charge to keep phone number and move to new service. The JHS current Consolidated bill is \$167.07 per month. Following discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to switch to Fidium Fiber for telephone and internet.** Kelly volunteered to make the arrangements.

Administrative Items:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule 2025: Mary Jean Smith, February 14, 2025, 9 AM to noon. Lois Frey, February 23, 2025, 1 to 3 PM. Kelly Vandorn, March 14, 2025, 9 AM to noon. Linda Jones, March 23, 2025, 1 to 3 pm. Dick Simays, April 11, 2025, 9 to noon. Holcomb House may be opened by appointment at any time. The Fire Department has been invited to visit at a future date with Mary Jean Smith coordinating.

*Social Media: Linda Jones reported the January 2025 newsletter has been distributed. There have been compliments received about the newsletter but no volunteer yet to assist with future layout, which requires ability with Microsoft Publisher. Contact Linda to volunteer or to learn more.

Mary Jean Smith offered a new idea for the JHS website, creating a section called What's New (at the Holcomb House) as a space to highlight acquisitions. She will work with Lydia Putvain to implement the addition.

Standing Committee Reports:

*Buildings, Grounds, and Facility Development: Dick Simays reported that Beth Miller, architect with the Preservation Trust of VT, contacted him suggesting a date during the week of March 10, 2025 to conduct the needs assessment. Dick will set a date and attend the site visit.

Noting the icicle build-up on the Holcomb House exterior, it was decided to remove all the art from the East wall in the East Room. Mary Jean will take a picture of the ice build-up problem to use as a reminder that the roof and building insulation are problems that need to be addressed. It was suggested that someone check the interior of the building periodically as the ice begins to melt. Mary Jean will share the information with Tom Galinat and Randall Szott.

Mary Jean Smith, Lois Frey and Dick Simays met with State Fire Marshall, Shawn Goodell for a walk-through inspection to learn what needed to be fixed before opening the second floor. Items identified: The fire extinguisher in the hall (outside the office) needs to be hung on the wall. Emergency lights by the exit signs should be directed away from art displays to avoid damage to the work. Stairs need graspable handrails with no more than 4 inches between posts on handrails and no open ends on railings. Door to parlor needs self-closing hinges. Hallway fire alarm on second-floor needs to be replaced with a smoke/carbon combination. Add fire alarm in the Dining Room. Let Fire Marshall know when work is completed.

Collections & Program Development:

Lois Frey reported that the Accessioning Committee will continue its work on the first Monday monthly, 9 AM to noon.

Linda Jones reported that the Program Committee will host a talk by Steve Leach about trains on 23 February 2025 at 2:00 pm. They will also host a talk by Dr. Paul Rogers on 23 March 2025 at 2 PM.

*Revenue Development: No news to report.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported that memberships continue to trickle in.

Acquisitions:

Alice Whiting shared a 1929 invitation to Johnson Normal School graduation from Stephen Wheeler. Dick also reported that he received an offer for a complete set of VT Life magazine. Following discussion, the Trustees extended appreciation for the offer but turned it down due to its limited connections to Johnson and storage issues.

Business cards for two businesses that closed in 2024, Ebenezer Books and Get Yours were added to the collection by Alice Whiting and Lois Frey respectively.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary.

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