

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

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

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 2.12.2025 with one correction.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported that Fidium Fiber for telephone and internet has been installed at the Holcomb House. The alarm system has been checked with the Sheriff's department to assure the new system worked with them. The new WiFi password is holcombhouse. The monthly payment will be \$71 per month. Thanks to Kelly and Jacob Vandorn for overseeing the change to Fidium Fiber.

Kelly also reported that \$371 was deposited from Town Meeting pie and cake sales.

Dean West reported that his review of the financials in the Town Report generated a question for him about the Selectboard's agreed upon match, which did not show in the town budget report. Kelly Vandorn will follow-up at the Municipal Office and with Dean.

Administrative Items:

*Holcomb House hosting schedule 2025: Kelly Vandorn, March 14, 2025, 9 AM to noon. Linda Jones, March 23, 2025, 1 to 3 pm with Dr Paul Rogers program starting at 2 pm. Dick Simays, April 11, 2025, 9 to noon. Holcomb House may be opened by appointment at any time.

*Social media: No report.

*Town Meeting follow-up: Thanks to the donations of homemade pies and cake, the Historical Society raised \$371. There was no official action required by JHS during the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

*Buildings, Grounds, and Facility Development: Dick Simays reported that he met with Jen Lipinsky for the Preservation Trust visit on March 7, 2025. She and two others checked the building from top to bottom. A report will be completed in a few weeks.

It was noted that the build-up of icicles and snow were removed by Brian Raulinaitis and his crew, a job well-done. Unfortunately, the huge snow and ice pile remains in-place against the building blocking the stairs to the ramp.

*Collections & Program Development:

Lois Frey reported that the **Accessioning Committee** will continue its work on the first Monday monthly, 9 AM to noon, next session April 7th. Dick Simays shared information found about the present value (\$500) of the Lamoille train model donated by Jessica Bickford's father.

Alice Whiting reported that the **Program Committee** will host a talk by Dr. Paul Rogers on March 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Dr. Rogers will stop by the Holcomb House on Friday, March 14th for planning purposes.

*Revenue Development: No news to report.

*Membership: Alice Whiting reported JHS has 70 memberships including individual, family & business. She received 61 responses to the membership letter, some were just donations. Thank you all! The JHS newsletter mailed to you is a benefit of membership. Following discussion about the need for someone to do the layout for the newsletter, Adrienne Parker said she might be able to do it. She will follow-up with Linda Jones.

Acquisitions:

Dick Simays shared a box of materials from the Walter Shaddock House, which were found in the walls during the renovations and were donated by Jane Draper. The donation was accepted with the idea that a collage or display box might be created to show samples of wallpaper and building materials used in the old house.

Other:

Dick Simays shared information about an upcoming event in Cambridge, the GAR Highway Marker Unveiling on May 18, 2025. The day long event will feature the dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Highway in 1937. Those present decided not to participate as an organization.

Lois Frey said she would be attending the Making Connections: Historical Society & Museum Showcase in Milton on April 12th as mentioned at a previous meeting. She has received a tri-fold display board so she will be putting an exhibit together using it. Let Lois know if you want to participate.

As a newly elected Selectperson, Adrienne Parker spoke about her interest in working with the Johnson volunteer groups to help coordinate activities and eliminate duplication. More to follow in the days ahead.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secondary.

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