

**Johnson Historical Society Meeting
10 June 2026 Holcomb House**

Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, John Sutherland, Kelly Vandorn, Mary Jean Smith, Alice Whiting and Lois Frey. Absent: Mike Dunham. Guest: Dean West.

President 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 13 May 2026 Minutes with one spelling correction and the 26 May 2026 Special Meeting minutes as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Vandorn reported the checkbook balance at year's end the same as previous month. Lydia Putvain has started her Treasurer responsibilities as Rosemary Audibert will retire at the end of June.

Administrative Items:

Holcomb House Hosting: The schedule for June will be 6.12.2026 from 9 AM to noon Mike Dunham and 6.28.2026 from 1:00 to 3 PM Linda Jones and for July will be 7.10.2026 from 9 AM to noon Mary Jean Smith and 7.26.2026 from 1:00 PM to 3 PM Lois Frey with John Sutherland.

Social media: Linda Jones received a June 1 notification from Facebook reporting the Johnson Historical Society has 1,835 followers on Facebook. On June 6 the notification stated: "The new post is receiving more engagement than 75% of other posts." Linda has more statistics from Facebook for anyone interested.

What is the vision for the Old Town Hall? John Sutherland reported that the Selectboard plans to create a committee or task force to identify uses for the building. Any trustee interested in serving may contact John.

Standing Committee Reports:

***Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities**

Mary Jean Smith reported the plants at the front of the Holcomb House are doing well in their second year, so she will order the identification stakes from Great Big Graphics and install them.

Mary Jean noted that the upstairs floors have been cleaned, especially well along the edges; however, she believes dust-like film persists on the floor. Alfred and Candance Lettieri mentioned checking with Rick Emery for a solution so perhaps it is a matter of time for completion. Mary Jean treated one of the upstairs windows with a special film and she felt it was quite a chore to install but it did work.

Mary Jean ordered, received, and with help from Steve Smith, installed a foam mattress on the antique bed, which will be used for displaying quilts and other period items.

Dick Simays had concerns about the proposed location for the baggage wagon and methods for protecting it from the elements. Ideas welcome. Dean West asked if there was space on the east side of the property.

There was discussion about getting a lift for expanded access to the second floor. Don Blake had suggested looking at the one at the Noyes House in Morrisville and Dean West suggested there was recently an advertisement touting a new version, which might be suitable for JHS needs. It was agreed it would be helpful to get cost estimates for purchase and installation of a suitable lift.

With the completion of various projects, it was noted that Mary Jean Smith will send pictures to the Fire Marshall as requested by him, to show the results.

***Collections & Program Development:** Linda Jones reported favorable responses to the Johnson Plot Cemetery program which featured snapshots about families buried in the Plot Cemetery giving their relevance to Johnson including the Adams, Atwell, Baker, Balch, Dodge, Marvin, and Ober families.

The Program Committee will meet soon to start planning for Fall 2026 programs.

***Revenue Development:** 2026 Tuesday Night Live will have six concerts on Legion Field. See below for details.

***Membership:** Linda Jones reported one new membership. Welcome John Sutherland.

Tuesday Night Live Planning: Start date will be 7 July 2026. Dick Simays reported he has made contact with Price Chopper and Hannafords. He will not attend the first concert, but he will leave the hotdog rolls and water in the Carriage Room. Tom Carney has spoken with Howard Romero about the location of the JHS trailer. Lois Frey has sent the request to McKenzie Country Classics. Linda Jones has placed a Costco order with Rosemary Audibert. The JHS trailer is out of storage and parked at the Holcomb House.

Participation in Lamoille County Court 250th Display: Linda Jones reported the meeting about the potential Johnson display went well. The items selected for July to mid-October display at the Court House were photographed by the curator of the exhibit. There was a question about the Jason Hunt exhibit leaving the Holcomb House. It was determined that a photograph not the item(s) would be acceptable by Historical Society trustees. The project's curator will get back to Linda with details of what they want to use.

***Acquisitions:**

Dick Simays donated 60 photos documenting the road damage done during the June 7, 1984 rain event including Prospect Rock Road and Hogback Road.

Lois Frey delivered a VT license plate notable for its wording "Vermont expires March 31, 1937".

Linda Jones delivered six 1996 flood pictures from Andrea Blaisdell; four Johnson Normal School yearbooks dated 1938-1941 donated by John Masiero; and a State Normal School plate, made in Germany for W.D. Welch, Johnson VT, donated by Linda.

***Notes:** Julian Scott House – John Sutherland reported a task force appointed by the Selectboard is coming soon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 10:30 AM.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 8 July 2026 at 9 AM at the Holcomb House.