

**Johnson Historical Society Meeting
12 August 2026 Holcomb House**

Present: Dick Simays, Linda Jones, John Sutherland, Mary Jean Smith, Kelly Vandorn and Lois Frey.
Regrets: Alice Whiting, Mike Dunham. Guests: Linda Benezra

President Dick Simays called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report: **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 8 July 2026 Minutes as printed.**

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Kelly Vandorn shared copies of the Current Year Paid to Date and the Current Year Income to Date sheets, which she received from Town Treasurer, Lydia Putvain. These will be helpful for a better understanding of the Historical Society's budget. (Copy on file with the minutes.)

Administrative Items:

Holcomb House Hosting: The schedule for August: Dick Simays on 8.14.2026 from 9 AM to noon and Mike Dunham on 8.23.2026 from 1 to 3 PM. For September, 9.11.2026 Kelly Vandorn from 9 AM to noon and 9.27.2026 Program Committee from 1 PM to 3:00 PM.

Social media: Linda Jones reported the recent Facebook post is receiving positive feedback. Sally Goddard, who visited the Holcomb House awhile back appreciates the Facebook page keeping information flowing.

Following discussion about the JHS Newsletter, Linda Jones stated she is gathering information for the next newsletter scheduled for early 2027.

Standing Committee Reports:

*Buildings, Grounds and Facility Development: John Sutherland reported that the oil burner was serviced on 8.11.2026 and all was well with the heating system.
Ice build-up at the Holcomb House has been addressed with Mike Magnone volunteering to keep an eye on the gutters from his vantage point at the Johnson General Store and notifying the Town Administrator if there is a potential problem noted.
There was a discussion about repairs at the Holcomb House identifying the need for grant assistance. Referencing the report **General Conditions Assessment of the Holcomb House dated May 2025** it was suggested that a full review of that report with its authors at Hunger Valley Construction, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, who partially funded it, and the Building Committee could be helpful.

*Collections & Program Development:

Mary Jean Smith reported that the Judge Gabel at the Lamoille County Court House have requested that the items on loan remain in their possession as they plan to extend the time of the exhibit. A letter of intent, listing the loaned-items accompanied the request. All agreed to the extension.

Linda Jones reported the Program Committee is planning a program about Julian Scott and will be meeting soon to develop that and to plan other educational programs.

*Revenue Development: Sale of homemade pie, cake, McKenzie hot dogs, and water at Tuesday Night Live continue to provide revenue for the Historical Society. Lois Frey reported that the food sale generated \$763 at the August 11th event.

*Membership: Linda Jones reported three renewal memberships.

Tuesday Night Live Follow-up: Lois Frey reported that the hot dog supply needs to be replenished. Dick Simays will use the Hannaford's gift card to purchase what is needed. Dick, Lois and Tom Carney will establish the quantity needed and Dick will take care of purchasing them.

JHS and VSU-Johnson Alumni Council Collaboration on archives: A request was received from the President of the college's Alumni Council, Denise Wessig requesting collaboration with the Johnson Historical Society in the form of aid with the college's archives and to prepare some of it for the 200th anniversary of VSU-Johnson in 2028. Following discussion it was decided to check with Barbara Flathers, a recent contact at the college, to learn about the archives request and the 2028 program. Mary Jean Smith will follow-up.

***Acquisitions:**

Linda Jones received via email from Rob Comeau a scanned 1910 school picture, which was determined to not be Johnson but probably Morrisville.

She also received from Brenda Jennison Jacobs a raccoon coat which was worn by Harris Beard who was Brenda's grandfather on her mother's side. Brenda's mother Luella was a Beard, her father was Asher Atwell son of Nathan Atwell, from the brick house on Plot Road.

Carolyn Tyler Knight delivered a twin covered bridges watercolor that her grandmother, Margaret Smalley painted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frey, Recording Secretary.