The Future of JHS…From the Board of Directors

It is time to consider, evaluate and discuss the current status, challenges and potential future of the Jacksonport Historical Society (JHS). While this column is not intended to announce a status of dire straits and/or pending collapse of JHS it is intended to share concerns for its future. In addition, it is hoped this column will initiate the beginning of the necessary discussion required at this time to ensure the future of JHS. However, to facilitate the discussion JHS must have Members (and interested non-Members) be involved and active.

First a reality check.

JHS has very limited volunteer support at this time. We have many volunteers that support Cherry Fest and maintenance at the JHS historical site. However, the most concerning volunteer deficit is at the JHS Board of Directors level. The JHS Board is supposed to be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 9 members….5 must be permanent residents of the Jacksonport area and the remaining 4 members can be seasonal residents. The Board currently, and for some time, has only three BOD members, of which only two are permanent residents. With those two permanent resident Board Members attempting to conduct all organizational, programming, financial activities and property management the future stability and existence of JHS is of concern.

What happens if one, or two, current Board Members are no longer available to serve?

The current Board is asking you to step forward and become a member of the JHS Board of Directors. We need your assistance if the future of JHS is to be certain.

When additional JHS Board of Director Members come on board, the next appropriate step is a greater discussion of the long-term future of JHS. This discussion should include Members, past Board Members and representatives of the local community. If we are successful in restoring the immediate strength of the JHS Board of Directors, a greater discussion may be planned for 2027.

To stir your thought process on the future of JHS the following hypothetical questions are posed to generate immediate discussion.

*Is it important to me that the JHS continue to exist?
*Is it important to the Jacksonport community that the JHS continue to exist?
*Am I willing to contribute time to ensure the future of JHS?
*If adequate Member/Community support does not exist should JHS be combined with some other organization of like historical goals?
*If adequate Member/Community support does not exist should JHS be dissolved and all resources transferred to some organization(s) of like historical goals?

If you have any thoughts, let us know by sending a letter to JHS, P.O. Box 42, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235; or through email at jacksonporthistorical@gmail.com . Watch our Facebook page and Website for updates.

In closing, it must be made clear that JHS is not on the immediate verge of collapse; not financially, not the programming and not the interest to keep the ***Keepers of the Past*** sustainable. However, it is pertinent that this discussion begins soon. Failure to openly and honestly assess the JHS current reality and potential future is ensuring a possible future the Membership and Community does not want.