

MINUTES, HUB Committee of Hudson Town Council
July 22, 2020

Ann Smith, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon in the auditorium of HUB Station. Present were committee members Larry Chapman, Rick Shew, and Ann Smith, as well as Mayor Janet Winkler, HUB Station Manager Janice Woodie, and HUB Steering chair Kathy Carroll. Honored guests were author Jan Karon, who grew up in Hudson, and her daughter Candace Freeland, a renowned photographer. All seating was at least 6 feet apart, and all present wore masks except when they were speaking to the group.

The group enjoyed lunch together as they shared conversation about themselves, the town, and the excitement of having the Jan Karon Mitford Museum at HUB Station. Ms. Karon spoke to the group first, thanking them for welcoming her back to Hudson and providing a place for her to share her personal and professional legacy with her fans across the world. “God has been in this project from the beginning,” she stated. “I had said to Candace many times that it would be so nice to have a Mitford Museum to represent the beauty of small-town life – and then the phone rang. It was Ann asking if I would be interested in investing in your vision for transforming this former school campus into a major Arts Center. And you know the rest. Here we sit together!”

Jan spoke of the people who have stepped forward to offer help because they, too, want there to be a Mitford Museum. “This little community is where I learned to love to write, and now I want to give back to you by helping to bring people to your grand new center.”

Jan asked each Town Council member present to tell her about themselves and asked many questions about their roles, town decision-making, and the Hudson community itself. She also explained her plan for the three classrooms that will compose the Jan Karon Mitford Museum at the end of East Wing hall. One room will be her personal, family memorabilia room about her time in Hudson; one room will be her Mitford years room with memorabilia about her novels, manuscripts, and characters; the third room will be the Happy Endings gift shop where fans can purchase Jan Karon books, museum logo items, and Mitford items.

Upon motion by Larry Chapman, seconded by Rick Shew, chairperson Smith adjourned the official meeting at 1:45 so that Jan could take those who chose to go on a tour of her museum rooms at this point in time, with much work remaining to be completed before the Grand Opening in late spring 2021.