**Stoddard 250 Anniversary Committee**

Notes from meeting October 10, 2023

* Ruth Medlock, Treasurer, presented the budget for this coming fiscal year through June 30, 2024. Activity Leaders have identified $14K in anticipated expenses against the $18K allocation from the town. Major assumptions are that we will sell $4000 of the merchandise we have paid for and have in stock by the end of June, and that insurance will cost us no more than $500, which still has to be nailed down. Terri suggested that raising the estimated cost to $1500, pending her discussion with the insurance broker for umbrella coverage, would be safer. Ruth estimated that we have $2-3K available to order additional merchandise inventory if we want.
* Terri has spoken to P.D. Septic, to supply port-a-potties for all events that need them (so far, the Snow Shindig in February and Pitcher Mountain Day in June and the Granite Lake camp event August 2024). They will charge us $100 per event.
* Old Home Days takes place in July, so expenses generally will come under the next fiscal year. However, there may be some activities done earlier (e.g. printing) that will need to be paid for out of this year’s funds.
* Re funding for next year: Terri reminded us that another allocation for the next fiscal year is not guaranteed. Warrant articles are due in March for the April town meeting. We agreed that we should have the budget ready, and discuss it at our February meeting, to prepare our request.
* Largest cost items for next year will be Old Home Days and the Pig Roast. We agreed that Old Home Days for the anniversary year should financially come under Stoddard 250, because separate fundraising for it, as has traditionally been done, would be confusing. We will include their costs (which have run around $3K, mostly for bands) in our budget request to the town. Randy will talk with Steve to prepare this, and to see if there will be additional costs for the bigger event in the anniversary year e.g. do we need to hire security and traffic control.
* Don needs to assemble a committee to develop plans for the pig roast, especially the overall budget and how much we want to subsidize to make it affordable for a cross section of the town. He agreed to come back with more details to discuss in January, to prepare the budget for the request to the town.
* Alan Rumrill is still looking for more nominees for Stoddard Stories—people with a long connection to the town, who would make for a good interview. Joyce will do a post on the Stoddard Resident Facebook page at the end of October, when Alan is ready.
* Randy Emerson reported that Consolidated has approved our application for 50 banners on their poles. (Thanks to Randy for surveying and completing the laborious application.) He is collecting the brackets Jaffrey used (*retrieved by the end of October)* and will take responsibility for putting them up, which he aims to do in early November before the really cold weather hits.
* Don Healy presented a preliminary design for the pole banners for comments. He subsequently circulated the revised design which was approved, and the banners ordered on October 17.
* Denise Bernier was not able to come, but has started to design the “Stoddard Passport”, It will have 12 events, 1 illustration for each event, and 1 consistent stamp. As an incentive to attending many events in various parts of the town, we agreed to award prizes (probably gift certificates to be purchased) at the pig roast for completing 6, 9, or 12 events. There will be a raffle and prize for each category.
* David Ferner, who is leading the kickoff event in January and could not attend this meeting, sent a message that he could use some volunteers to help research food and drink typical in 1774. Joyce will send a message to the Historical Society list. Dave also asked Terry to be sure to deliver the Select Board’s cooperation (and enthusiasm.) Which Select Board meeting date in January (8th, 22 or 29) is still to be determined.
* Rachel Leonard could not come but sent a written progress report on the Snow Shindig in February. “*In addition to our discussion last month, JFES PTO will participate in the event by selling s'more packages and lunch at Island Pond.  Carol gave me Sean's email and I have reached out to see if he was interested in being part of the event or planning process. At this time, we will have breakfast at the school (school is reserved) by the fire department, ice rink, ice fishing derby (my husband will provide equipment for any children that would like to learn, but do not have equipment), s'mores/fire, lunch.   
    
  I will create a flyer and outreach information this month*. “

Committee liked the plans and agreed that it was okay to combine with a PTO fundraiser, but to be sure to tell people that the PTO is selling food and to bring money. Randy said be sure to state that anyone over 16 needs a license to fish (kids are okay). And don’t forget the port-a-potty at Island Pond.

* We began to discuss promotion, when it should begin and what channels to use. We agreed to start with the banners, and to drive traffic to the website. Posters at Town Hall for the NH Primary in January would be seen by a lot of people.
* Joyce again emphasized that we need a volunteer coordinator, and asked for any suggestions.

Next meeting is **Thursday November 9** at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.