**Stoddard 250 Anniversary Committee**

Notes from Meeting December 14, 2023

1. *Financial report and Budget status (Ruth):* We have $13,307 with money still coming from the town. Banners ran $500 under budget, and we will save money on renting vans for the House and Garden tour next year. Ruth estimates that the budget is generally spoken for, and we are running a bit better than expected. We need final details on funds needed for the February Snow Shindig, and the cost of insurance.

A motion was approved that should we have any funds approved but not used by the end of this fiscal year, we wish them to go into the town’s Recreation Fund.

We should have our budget for next fiscal year in by the end of February. Old Home Days has some money from prior fundraising but will need more. They are trying to get 2-3 more bands which need to be paid; they are planning a breakfast at the school on Sunday morning and would like to make it free.

1. *Follow-up: insurance (Terri LaRoche):* Terri reported that Tim Manwaring from Clark Mortenson has our list of events and is working on getting us quotes. He doesn’t feel it will be a problem to get in place by Jan 8th. It’s out to 2 underwriters and the broker is awaiting a response from a third.
2. *Status of banners: (Randy, Don):* Randy Reported 42 of 50 Banners have been hung (all agreed they look awesome and we are getting good feedback from residents), 4 are ready to be hung and 4 are available if anyone has a request. He will email Michelle about the Town Hall Flag Pole. He also mentioned possibly do a kids Scavenger Hunt “Where are all the Banners” with a prize

The town has an ordinance that prohibits banners larger than the ones we’re putting up, and we are not exempt; the Select Board is not willing to make an exception for us. To put up big banners for the summer, we need to propose a change in the ordinance. Terri is looking for suggestion on the exact language. It has to go to the Planning Board in January.

Randy pointed out that there is selective enforcement; he’s counted at least 20 temporary signs that exceed the regulation, from “we’re hiring” to the Library.

1. *Stoddard Passport: (Carol, Denise*): Carol has presented a draft design of the symbols for various places. The first event where this will be used for check in is the Snow Shindig in February. Carol had received feedback that the Passport would be better served as a keepsake if it was looking more like a “true Passport”. She could do 2 pictures per page and it would be less costly. Final design has to be approved at our next meeting to have it printed and ready for the February event.
2. *Merchandise sales (Kim, Carol, Linda):* Carol indicated there have been 12 orders but is not sure if the website is fully working and will touch base with Jason. It was noted that there may be confusion as some orders (like Geri’s) were from the Bulldog Flash Store. Alan showed the Metal Tokens (really nice) and it was decided to sell for $8.00 apiece.

We have sold out of the initial order of mugs, and Joyce had put in a second order of mugs but they arrived with a smaller logo than the originals. As it was the vendor’s error they are correcting and sending 50 more at the right size at no additional charge. Both will be offered as a choice for sale. We’ll have lots of mugs.

1. *Kickoff-* Dave took us through the recipes he is looking to have made that are appropriate for the time period; he asked, and got volunteers to make them. He will send the recipes. Terri noted that we need to arrive 6:30 to 6:40 ahead of Select Board Meeting as there will be a regular meeting held prior to refreshments.
2. *Snow Shindig Feb 17: (Rachel)*  No discussion as Rachel was not able to come. She is to send us the flyer and request for funds for the next meeting.
3. *Hikes:* Geri Bailey asked about the Hikes as she had reached out to Geoff regarding LBF parking. Geri will follow up with Geoff; subsequent to the meeting, she assumed responsibility to be the Activity Leader for hikes, with Geoff as advisor. Alan is willing to go on hikes as needed to provide historical background. We are still planning a hike from the center of Stoddard to the Purley Swett homestead in October.
4. *Old Home Days:* the committeewants to encourage more floats, we agreed to put in our communications and ask people interested to email Randy in advance.
5. *Pictures:* no discussion was held other than it was noted we should determine how residents can share pics from events and get them loaded up to our website.

**Next meeting is 1/11/24 at 6:30 at Town Hall.**