**Stoddard 250 Anniversary Committee**

Notes from meeting June 8, 2023

* Our financial structure is set: the board of the Stoddard Historical Society has agreed to set us up as a subcommittee of their organization, with a separate bank account for our activities. This has a lot of advantages for us: they are an existing 501(c)3 not for profit in case people want to donate; it is an established organization so we can get credit, and set up a bank account. Ruth and Carol will follow through on establishing the bank account, how we get our money allocated by the town, and establishing a credit card merchant account to make it easier to sell merchandise.
* Randy will build a structure for our big round logo banners for his truck for the Old Home Days parade, to promote and build awareness of Celebrate Stoddard 250. He will be the closer at the end of the parade.
* Randy (thank you!) volunteered to lead the effort to install banners for the anniversary along town roads.
* The website debuted at Town Meeting, and very quickly 20 people signed up to get a newsletter when we start one. It also got us a volunteer to plan the winter event and organize the town cleanup. We are launched!
* Joyce presented drawings designed by the company Ceremony of Roses for possible branded merchandise. We liked them, and agreed to order 250 sage green tee shirts, using the vendor’s size distribution model for our region, 250 hats, up to 250 mugs, and 250 pins, and order quickly so we can begin selling merchandise at Old Home Days 2023 in July. We agreed to take samples of the sweatshirts and white tee shirt to our sales table, to assess interest for a subsequent order. (Follow-up: there was a smaller minimum order for mugs, so we are starting with 50. There was not enough time to get pins, and COR doesn’t do youth sizes.)
* We will have a sales table with the Historical Society at the bazaar inside Town Hall at Old Home Days.
* Joyce will sit outside Town Hall to tell people about the 250th Anniversary, show people our tentative schedule of events, and solicit feedback.
* Terri La Roche presented a proposal for a music program from May until Sept. The kickoff will feature a 50s band, classic cars, and a food truck. Concerts will rotate to various parts of Stoddard. We liked the idea of combining with a food truck (s) at all of them. Concerts will be on a weekend, at a family friendly time like 4 pm; Terri will check the difference in band rates for a Saturday versus a Sunday. She’s already gotten permission from Christine and Franz Haase to use their property for a concert at the time of the chicken barbeque at Old Home Days, and Sorell and Jeff Downing agreed to host on their lawn at a date tbd
* We liked all that was presented, and agreed to send her plan to the Program Committee to review the proposed dates and to determine which ones should be added to the calendar to fit with the timing of other planned activities. Followup issues to be discussed at a later meeting:
* What is our insurance coverage under the town policy, or do we need to get an event policy?
* Do we need to ask for waivers e.g. for hikes?
* What is our policy on alcohol? Obviously not at any event at the school, but what about on private property?
* What is Terri’s budget to pay the bands?

Next regular meeting is **July 13** at 6:30 at Town Hall.