**Stoddard 250 Anniversary Committee**

Notes from meeting Sept 7, 2023

* Ruth Medlock, Treasurer, is still looking for each Activity Leader to submit budget requests. We need to finalize the budget for the fiscal year through June 30, 2024 at the next meeting on October 12. We should also be collecting budget information for events that will take place in the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2024.
* Re funding: Terri reminded us that another allocation for the next fiscal year is not guaranteed. If we want to apply for use of the recreation fund, e.g. to help fund the concerts, we should apply early, as soon as January. Warrant articles are due in March for the April town meeting.
* Alan Rumrill is set to begin interviewing and is looking for more nominees for Stoddard Stories—people with a long connection to the town, who would make for a good interview. David Lesser asked if interviews can be done remotely. (Alan, who could not attend the meeting, later said yes, though in-person is preferable.)
* Dave 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 said she would send a message to the Historical Society list. Dave also asked Terry to be sure to deliver the Select Board’s cooperation (and enthusiasm.) He will start in late October to get on the agenda of the first meeting.
* Rachel Leonard, who volunteered to head up a winter event, now called the Stoddard Snow Shindig, introduced herself to the committee and led a discussion of ideas for the event. It will begin with a breakfast at the school, run by the Fire Department, and take place at a lake to be determined. Carol shared the format of winter events done years previously. Steve Rockwell says that the Fire Department has lots of marshmallows it can provide for s’mores at a bonfire. More specifics to follow.
* Steve Rockwell reported on Old Home Days, particularly the parade, which he hopes will be much bigger than usual. Because it is the 250th Anniversary, more bands are interested. They are seeking more floats, and would like to start soon to invite people to participate There will probably be a contest for best float, and likely some notification required if a group wants to participate (probably through the Celebrate Stoddard 250 website.) They will need extra money for extra efforts, and will be sending a budget request form to Ruth.
* David Lessor has volunteered to organize a House and Garden tour for 12-4 on the Saturday of Old Home Days. The Committee liked the idea, and David will now begin to contact homeowners. His budget request will include a shuttle bus, signs at the sites, and printing of information on all the gardens. He will need lots of volunteers to staff each site.
* Joyce again emphasized that we need a volunteer coordinator, and asked for any suggestions.
* Randy Emerson reported on banners, and showed a map of potential locations. The goal is to have banners on poles at 40-50 locations spread throughout the town up well before Jan 1, so they can be installed before deep winter weather. Because of Randy’s excellent diplomatic efforts, Jaffrey will give us their brackets after they take them down. Randy will fill out an application to Consolidated by pole number, which is required to use their poles.
* Don Healy is responsible for designing the banners; he will have the final design proposal by the next meeting. He also owes Ruth a budget estimate for printing the banners. Still to be determined is whether we do large horizontal banners for Town Hall and/or the Fire Station. Carol investigated and learned that we cannot put banners across route 123, since it is a state highway.
* Sharon Iagulli, Joanne Bartolotta, and Judy Walton, who are activity leaders for the Granite Lake camp event next August, introduced themselves to the committee (and were pleased to hear there are lots of marshmallows available from the Fire Dept.)
* Geri Bailey reported on some ideas that are percolating but not ready yet: the 5th graders at the school may make trail maps; the Girl Scouts are figuring out how they can participate, and several residents are considering creating a disc golf course.
* There was some discussion of the need for additional permanent keepsake merchandise, such and coins and keychains, which was deferred to get Kim Rumrill’s involvement.
* Denise Bernier has agreed to design the “Stoddard Passport”, which she suggested not be a passport-like book which is too expensive to produce. Carol will work with her to pick which activities should be included.
* Re insurance: Terri reported that we cannot come under the town’s umbrella policy because we are not an official town organization, but rather a part of the Historical Society, which has a policy through Clark Mortenson. We need to give the broker a tentative list of activities to get a quote. Terri agreed to follow this up. This is potentially a significant budget item.

Next meeting is **Thursday October 12** at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.