

## OOBMITS Committee

**Meeting: Wednesday October 19, 2016**

**Location: Old Orchard Beach Town Hall, Planning Office**

Present: Kim Schwickrath, Helene Whittaker, Susan McGinty, Wendy Chase, Pat Brown, Megan McLaughlin

6:00PM Meeting Convened

### **ITEM 1:**

*Haunted History Walk Discussion*

Ideas for Props along the Tour:

- People to have staged at the event: Man & woman dancing down by the Pier to an old song (Louis Armstrong – It's a Wonderful World)

Volunteers Needed For:

- Carpool from Brunswick back to the Atlantic Birches for Tour Guides (Helene is working on getting transportation)
- 2 ballroom dancers for down by the Pier – *Story to go along with the two dancers – tragic story about how these people died in the fire of 1907 (at the end of the script it mentions people died the next day from injuries sustained in the fire). If we only have a female dancer, the story can be elaborated to say that the woman's spirit is brighter than the mans and have the female dancer dancing alone but looking like she's dancing with her partner. Mention that they come back yearly to dance on this date.* (Susan to try and find someone to dance)
- A Photographer (Susan & All Volunteers to work together to take photos)
- People to bake cookies & brownies, cider and cups
- Followers – 1 in back of each group
- People at the table
- Person to dress up as the “man in black” that goes along with the UFO story
- Tour Guides
- Student Involvement? Ask Amy. Would Drama students be able to dress up in period outfits and act like they are living in the 30's: “*hey let's go to the Pier, I hear Duke Ellington is there!*”

Event Parking:

- Prior to the event, it should be pointed out that there is no parking provided at the Atlantic Birches Inn and that people should make parking arrangements to park off-site.
- Recommendation that people can park at Town Hall and be directed over to the Atlantic Birches, there is also parking available on First Street which is right in the middle of the Atlantic Birches Inn and the Brunswick. People can also park at the bank and walk from there.

### Event Logistics:

- Pat has offered to provide a large tent that can be used over a table and decorated for the event. The tent will say OOBMITS Haunted Tour Sign up Here on the top in neon yellow so people see as they are driving by.
- Large donation jar to have at the event with \$\$ already in it with cookies on the side. Cookies could be 50 cents but cider could be free. Trying to help raise additional funds for the project.
- Kim has an old railroad lantern that she's going to try and get working
- Helene has black lanterns with tea lights – we could have 2 on the table and 2 for the tour guides to have with accompanying flashlights (just in case the lanterns aren't bright enough)
- Tell people as they are picking up their bracelets that we will have photographers at the event – just in case we need consent to take photos of people.
- Even if we don't have people for all time slots, the committee is committed to staying the entire duration of the event just in case people show up to do the tour without signing up prior.
- There should be a spur of the moment tour guide in case people want to go in between tour times.
- Communication with volunteers for event walk-through next Thursday.
- Event to be held rain or shine.

### Script Modifications:

- Beginning of the tour mention that this project is to fundraise for the Old Orchard Beach Museum in the Streets project... also mention how much money we need to raise. Additional information to include: information based on legend and can't be verified, hand me down stories
- 1882 Fire at the former Brunswick – someone died? Chambermaids? Story needed associated with the Brunswick since that's where the tour is going to end.
- Indian Burial Ground behind Town Hall story – add a piece that “legend has it...”
- Grand Victorian/Velvet Hotel – remove section starting with “the changing face of OOB has not been without controversy and challenges, however...” and add the Comfort Station story in red after the Palace Playland section since the Comfort Station is across the street from Palace Playland.
- To add to the Pier section: No big haunted story, big bands, people dressed up, talk about the dummy train, say that you can hear the whistle of the train every once in a while in the distance.
- Palace Playland – need to finish section on Dave the Guesser...signs are available for sale from that timeframe...a sign could be replicated?
- Whitehall – section on this at the Historical Society, need to get more information on this to add to the Whitehall section.
- Removed the train station and ended at the Brunswick. Brunswick story to be added.

### Event Promotion:

- Wendy will hang up some posters
- Pat recommended that we “salt” the sign-up so it looks like slots are filling up and might prompt more people to sign up. It was recommended to add another 4 to the one with 4 people already signed up and add another 5 to the one with only 1 signed up. Send out a Facebook posting to go along with this that says slots are filling up...also include a “teaser” such as an intro to the UFO story and that people can come to the event to learn more.
- Include on the Town website that if people have questions they can contact Megan (phone & email).
- Could the Brunswick include something on their light-up sign? “Haunted History Tour Date/Phone”
- Would Jimmy the Greeks include something on their sign?
- Send a post out through Craigs List
- Promotion through the Friends of Ocean Park page on Facebook
- Maine Today website under “things to do”
- Liz with the Journal Tribune – see if she would be willing to publish an article and send out an invite for her to come to the event. She could also include a bit on upcoming fundraising events such as a gala (re-live the big band era).
- Contact Ben Meiklejohn with the Courier and see if he would be willing to do an interview for the event.

### Walk-Through:

- Meet at 5:00PM at the Atlantic Birches Inn on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> for the walk-through
- Tour guides to take turns going through the script at each site – Helene to bring lanterns
- Wendy will help take notes

### **ITEM 2:**

#### *Other Business*

### Other Events:

- People might be interested in purchasing gala tickets for the holidays to give to friends/family. Logistics would have to be worked out to make this work.
- A beef & brew night at the Brunswick could be another fundraising event, it could be as part of a “spring-fling” in May. Brunswick could sell tickets and give OOBMITS a cut of the tickets.

### Grants:

- Margaret E. Burnham grant was submitted, will hear back in December if we got the grant.
- Libra Foundation application is due Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – we could get up to \$25,000 from that grant.
- Look into Steven King – libraries grant

Panels:

- Re-coat panels after 10 years – fade factor?
- What happens when the post cards are blown up...will the quality decrease on the panel?
  - Need to check with P. Cardon on these details.

**Next Meeting: Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM-6:30PM (Walk-Through of Haunted History Walking tour Event)**