November 10, 2025

Athens Meetinghouse Minutes

Attending the meeting: Ginger Maciejowski, Sherry Maher, Krista Gay, Candace Damon, and guest Don Capponcelli (Pam Russo unable to attend)
October minutes were approved and seconded
Easement for the Meetinghouse is with Preservation Trust Vermont
Sherry has been communicating with Jenna. Meg (from PTV) asked for a meeting to discuss ADA access last Friday. The PTV is concerned about the appearance of the building with the new ADA access. They believe that the side entrance is a better option. Sherry and Don felt that after much discussion and explanation of how we got to where we are now that Meg and Jenna were more amenable to the idea of the front entrance. Some suggestions are being considered such as moving approaching steps to the east side of the building and bringing the ramp out further to avoid rain and snowfall directly on the ramp.
We had a brief discussion about the future potential for a driveway location behind the building rather than approaching from the front across the lawn. This would of course involve an agreement with the owners of the house behind the Meetinghouse. We will need to wait to hear from PTV before moving forward on plans. Sherry added that she talked with PTV about plaster repair in the building and was told that it must be specialized plaster repair consistent with the historic material that needs to be used when it is done.
Funds from VCRD - Will need to hear from Dani or Jessica.

Town Report needs to be written. Ginger volunteered to work on that with Pam if she is willing. The committee agreed that we should ask the town for $3000 and put it in as an article on the town meeting agenda. Pam is up for reelection this year. As of January $2676.28 in the town Meetinghouse fund. $2500 was added since then from the town. Money out has been for Ivor to mow ($500) as well as payment for Jon Sococcio which will be reimbursed from $7500 grant. Porta potty for the summer months was paid for out of the Historical Society account and was between $5-600. Right now the Historical Society account has approximately $60,000 specifically for preservation work.
There is a VT Arts Council Facilities Grant which has a May deadline. We will have more information on that by March Town Meeting.

MTAP funds: Still talking about combining with the Community Center to enlist some grant research funds possibly for a capital campaign for the two buildings. Candace suggested that the capital campaign idea would be a waste of money and it would seem more reasonable to use money to get renderings for the Meetinghouse.

Tree lighting is scheduled for Nov. 30th at 5:30 pm.
Next meeting Dec. 8th at 10 am on Zoom.
Sherry made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 am

Submitted by Ginger Maciejowski