**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of February 2, 2023 meeting**

\* The meeting was called to order by chairperson Sandi Capponcelli at 6:37PM. Present were Krista Gay, Tina White, Dennis Mirante and Matt Shea, committee members. Also present were Lily Justice and Don Capponcelli.

\* There were no changes to the agenda.

\*The minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting were approved without any additions or corrections (Tina White moved to accept, Matt Shea seconding. Carried to a vote and passed).

**\* Volunteers to clean up “coat room” for Town Meeting** – Thur. Feb. 23’rd, 5PM was set as a time for cleanup prior to the Mon. night, March 6’th Town Meeting. All Committee members were to be on-hand for the cleanup.

**\* February Sledding Party** – Saturday, March 4, 2023, 1PM to 3PM was set for the Sledding Party, dependent on the weather. There was discussion about tying the event to a bake sale- A question was raised about “square” technology for those who do not carry cash. Krista will talk to Town Treasurer Hannah Regier about the feasibility of setting up this technology.

**\* Assembly Room (only) floor replacement:**

* One option discussed was Stone Carpet, a ½-inch layer or either epoxy or polyurethane binder with approximately ¼-inch stone aggregate. Labor would likely be volunteer, as there are no known professional installers at this time. On-line claims offer a good review for acoustics. There was a question about how easily repairs could be made to the floor, and whether that type of surface could cause more injuries as a result of falls. As with other options the room would likely need an additional layer (54 sheets) of underlayment to provide a clean and more stable surface for application. Cost of Stone Carpet was not known at the time of the meeting.
* Lawton Floor Design, Brattleboro, Vt. recommended a BeauFlor-brand vinyl plank flooring. This particular brand has a 22-mil. wear layer, as opposed to 2- to 4-mil. average wear layers on most box-store brands. Underlayment, vinyl planks and adhesive would be $11,100.00, not including fastener costs or dumpster disposal of old flooring.

The Coat Room and other adjacent areas were not considered at this time. No final decisions were made.

**\* Grants and projects:**

* Don has reached out to Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) for a jump-start with locating grant sources and starting grant applications. BDCC and VLCT held a webinar on Jan. 24’th, of which Don, Hannah Regier and Janet Perry were in attendance. One of the big take-a-ways from the meeting was in learning that Athens’ ARPA funds ($131,211.85) can be used as grant matches for other grant sources. Katie Buckley at VLCT recommended that municipal applicants “…think big, move slowly and provide as much planning as possible.” Municipalities have until 12/31/2024 to commit ARPA funds and until 12/31/26 to expend said funds. Don and Janet Perry will attend an in-person ARPA meeting with State and local officials in Bellows Falls on Monday, Feb. 6’th, and Don, Janet, Hannah Regier and Sandi will attend a Zoom Meeting with Meg Staloff of BDCC on Thur. Feb. 9’th to see about assistance with grant applications and planning.
* Don shared a work-in-progress Excel spreadsheet showing a list of proposed upgrades to the Community Center building, including a cost for each upgrade and placement into categories such as “ADA-related,” “Fire Code-related,” “Health & Safety,” “Energy Efficiency,” “Program-related,” “Aesthetic” and “Other.” The document is intended to be a resource for BDCC, VLCT and any other entity offering help to Athens with grant sourcing.
* Don also shared a proposed floor layout for the re-configuration of the northwest corner of the main building, replacing the existing three (3) bathrooms with two bathrooms, one of which would be up to current ADA standards and would include an ADA-compliant shower stall.
* Tina White is to forward an e-mail from Wichie Artu identifying seven (7) possible grant sources for Athens. Of these he has focused on an EPA grant (which would require a non-profit partner) which he thinks could be applied toward heat pump installation, and an ACCD grant which he thinks could be applied toward ADA-related needs. Wichie offered to either walk-through (at no charge) another volunteer on the grant application process or else work on the two referenced applications himself for a fee. Said fee would either be $100.00 per hour or 10% of the grant proceeds. Tina will contact Wichie to see if the 10% fee would only apply if the grant was successfully awarded to Athens. Don would consider being the volunteer for the grant applications, but wondered if he would be busy with other grant writing. Having an extra grant writer may expand coverage. Sandi pointed out that the Selectboard would have to finalize any decisions to hire a grant writer. Don will look into accepted practices for grant writing fees.
* Tina White urged progress toward completion in 2023 of ADA parking, approach and access to the basement level of the Community Center, particularly with regard to the replacement of wood retainer walls with stone blocks. Can the road crew provide the work? Don has discussed these plans with road foreman Matt Perry in the past and will contact Matt about finalizing a plan together.

\* There was no further business.

\* Tina White moved to adjourn at 8:46PM. Seconded by Dennis Mirante. Carried to a vote and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli