**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of March 3, 2022 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by Chairperson Sandi Capponcelli. Present were Sandi, Matt Shea, Tina White Krista Gay and David Bemis, committee members. Also present was Don Capponcelli.

. The minutes of the December 2. 2022 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections (Tina White moved to accept, Matt Shea seconding).

**. Voted Funds** – Tina White inquired whether the $8,000.00 line item approved by voters for “School Building Maintenance” (Town Report p. 14, under heading “Athens Elementary Sch. Building”) was intended exclusively for general repairs. Dave Bemis verified that it was.

**. Update on Emergency Door Lighting** – We have one estimate from Sparky Electric of Chester, Vt., for the installation of compact lit exit signs with LED emergency lights on the seven (7) exit doors designated by Vt. Fire Safety. There are estimates pending from HB Energy Solutions of Springfield, Vt. and from Zech Wicker of ZW Handyman Services LLC of Athens, Vt.. We are aiming to have the three estimates available for the March 17 Athens Selectboard meeting.

* Don has submitted an application and is working with Adam Davis of VLCT on a PACIF grant which would pay a portion of the emergency lighting project up to as much as $1500.00

**. Grant Research Discussion** :

* Neither Gary Fox nor Chris Campany have been consulted yet regarding grant sources.
* Can we identify uses for part of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Grant funds that will eventually be received by the Town? Sandi will remain in contact with Selectboard member Janet Perry regarding the status of this grant.
* Might there be Federal infrastructure money to be made available for projects in Athens?
* Would a roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar array, perhaps with an electric vehicle charging station, be in the interests of the town? Dave Bemis pointed out that the metal roofing would likely have to be replaced first. Would money from Housing & Urban Development (HUD) or the Federal “Build Back Better” program apply to a project like this?
* The State of Vermont is designating grant funds to step up the installation of (air source) heat pumps. Heat pumps have the added benefit of providing air conditioning. Matt Shea is to look into this and other sources.
* During the recent building inspection Steve Dumont of Vt. Fire Safety pointed out that Senator Patrick Leahy’s office had been helpful in the past in directing Vt. entities to sources for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) grants. Krista Gay has had good experience with Peter Welch’s office in the recent past and will look into ADA grant sources as well as possible grant sources for solar energy.

**. Interior Painting** – Sandi inquired whether part of the $542.00 in proceeds from the “un-tag sale” should be used to paint the main assembly room and hallway formerly known as the “coat room.” Krista Gayle offered to increase her previous donation to the un-tag sale by an amount that would cover the cost of the paint needed in the main assembly room. Matt Shea and Don Capponcelli volunteered to provide labor to repair the drywall in both rooms. It was agreed that the painting labor would be offered to Athens teens in need of community service hours. Sandi would provide supervision.

* Tina suggested looking into spending a portion of the money to buy folding tables. Dave Bemis cautioned about checking into VOSHA requirements (It was thought that the requirements would not apply if the tables were less than 25 lbs. each).
* Matt Shea suggested part of the funds be spent on deep-cleaning of the carpets.

**. “Open House” brainstorming** – Sandi posed the question of what type of “opening” event could be staged to re-introduce the townspeople to the new community center. The timeline agreed to was late summer/ early fall at a date not to conflict with other nearby events.

* One idea was to try to repeat the success of the un-tag sale or “donation tag sale” with donated items- Such an event would be staged somewhere in the middle of the Grace Cottage auction in early August, and the Grafton Fire Dept. tag sale on Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples’ Day) Weekend.
* Other ideas included an event that would target children (i.e., crafts). A local farmers’ market event was suggested, as well as a chili cookoff & rummage sale.

**. Other Business – Draft Contract for Rentals:**  Sandi opened discussion on the need to have a contract to use when renting the building for private functions.

* Krista cautioned that there is no liability waiver for the Town in situations where the Town should happen to be found to be negligent. An arbitration clause should be considered.
* Dave wondered what the VOSHA considerations would be.

**. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:44PM.

**. Date of next regular meeting** – Thursday, April 7, 2022, 6:30PM, location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli