ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft of Minutes of November 9, 2023 meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandi Capponcelli at 6:40PM. Present were Sandi, Tina White and Matt Shea, committee members. Also present was Don Capponcelli.

The minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections (Tina White moved to accept; Matt Shea seconding).

There was a $150.00 cash donation given to the Community Center and a thank you note went out to the donor. There was also a donation of wrapping paper and tags for the upcoming Children’s Christmas Bazaar and cookie swap.

**General needs for events coordination:**

* Sandi is to purchase storage totes (2 large; 2 medium)
* Sandi recommends that we start a binder to record attendance, supplies needed, and participants to be contacted for repeat events (example: chili cook-off chefs).
* A bin for compostable items was suggested.

**Children’s Christmas Bazaar and cookie swap:**

* Word is getting out that we are taking donations for the event
* Participating children can buy gifts for up to 5 family (household) members at $1.00 apiece (Typical for white elephant sales). Gift-wrapping will be included.
* Adults can bring 1 dozen/ take 1 dozen cookies.
* Hot chocolate will be served.

We need to step-up advertising for the bazaar:

* Sandi will place newspaper ads next week and will post on the Front Porch Forum for Athens, Grafton and Townshend.
* Tina will look into posters (including the fork at Rte. 35 & Brookline Rd.), Grafton Gabber and the Saxton’s River School System.

**Signage is needed in the long-term for future events:**

* There was discussion of a sign shop at the old Sanel Auto Parts shop in Bellows Falls (in behind the tattoo shop).

**Brainstorming needed:**

* Spring community event? 1’st of March?
* Larger fundraiser – There was more discussion of the possibility of a bake sale at either the WRJ or Brattleboro rest stop on Tre. 91. The “square” for electronic donations is up and running. Tina will inquire whether the Meeting House Committee would be interested in teaming up for the rest stop fundraisers.

**Building Needs:**

* Because of limited funds the Committee will concentrate on drywall repairs and painting needed in the bathrooms and the coat room. Community service teens may be invited to participate.

**Reserve Fund discussion** – Can all or a portion of the annual maintenance budget for the Community Center building be held in a reserve fund in which unspent funds from a current year roll over into the next year? Would such a fund require a vote of the Athens registered voters?

Adjournment – Tina White moved to adjourn at 7:34PM. Seconded by Matt Shea.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli, Jr.