

ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Draft of Minutes of August 7, 2025 meeting

*The meeting was called to order by Tina White. Present were Tina, Krista Gay, Sandi Capponcelli and Don Capponcelli, committee members. Also present were Sherry Maher, representing the Athens Brick Meeting House Committee, and Mike McConnell of the Windham Regional Commission.

*The minutes of the July 10, 2025 meeting were approved without any additions or corrections (Sandi Capponcelli moved to approve; seconded by Tina White).

***ADA Parking** – Tina has ongoing concerns about mud in the designated ADA parking area during Town Meeting. There is a question about plowing the transition between the main parking lot and different materials (sure-pack, recycled asphalt) in the ADA spot. Don will look into asphalt paving for the ADA spot.

***Lighting** – Don will have quotes on installation of exterior floodlights for the August 21st selectboard meeting.

***Town Picnic** – Time set for 3 – 6PM. Tina can make a blackstone grill available. Krista will procure hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls. There was a discussion of possible yard games. The Committee will meet at 2PM for setup. There will be indoor eating if it rains.

***Chili Cookoff** – Date was moved up from Sept. 27th to Sept. 20th so as not to be on the same day as Saxton's River chili cookoff. Time set for 5PM. Tina will prepare flyer.
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***Village Trust Initiative (VTI) Grant** – There are remaining funds in the Vermont Technical Assistance Program (MTAP), managed by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), which may provide funding for technical assistance in seeking more grant funding and community engagement. There was discussion as to whether last year's VTI grant application for just the Community Center was too narrow. Sherry Maher and Krista Gay, having met with Dani Parkins of VCRD, inquire about the possibility of a community trust which would apply for VTI designation that would speak to a wider community effort and could also include the Athens Brick Meeting House.

- Would there be a broader scope 501 C-3 for a Community Village trust vs. Community Center trust? How do both buildings benefit the town?
- Can we build on last year's (Community Center) application?
- Sandi will try to pull together and update last year's application work.
- A letter to the selectboard is needed.
- Sherry will reach out to peers.
- Mike McConnell will try to get questions answered. He will reach out to Dani, Kasiah and Jess for samples from other towns. He wonders how he can consult with Athens. Mike also directs the committee's attention to a UTube video on the VTI program.

*There was no other business for discussion.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM (Sandi Capponcelli moved to adjourn; seconded by Krista Gay).

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli