**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of minutes of April 7, 2022 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM by Chairperson Sandi Capponcelli. Present were Sandi, David Bemis, Matt Shea and Tina White, committee members. Also present was Don Capponcelli.

. The minutes of the March 3, 2022 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections (Dave Bemis moved to accept; Matt Shea seconding).

**. Exit lights and emergency lights –** HB Energy has work-in-progress on the combination lit exit signs with emergency lighting. The installing technician originally located a fixture to the right (east) of the north wall exit door from the main assembly room, but was asked to relocate it to the center of the door. The original location was chosen so as to not have the (easternmost section of the north wall) book shelves blocking the view of the exit sign as one enters the assembly room from the main entrance door (at the northwest corner of the room).

* Don recommended the removal of the one section of the bookshelves in order to get rid of the obstruction to the exit sign- The Committee was in doubt about the need to do so, however, and no action was taken on the recommendation at this time.

**. Heat Pumps** – Don contacted the point person at HB Energy Solutions on the subject of heat pumps for the main assembly room. The idea would be to reduce the load on the main heating system for the building during the colder months and provide air conditioning in the warmer months. Don was told that with the dimensions of the room, two (2) heat pump units would be needed and the estimated cost would be between $15,000 and $20,000.

* Caveats to the idea: A) the relative efficiency of the units decreases as winter temperatures get lower, and B) Without the whole building being served by the heat pumps, other areas (especially bathrooms and other plumbing areas) might not call for heat from the main heating system in a timely fashion.
* Tina White questioned whether heat pumps save money at all, since they trade heating fuel dollars for electricity dollars. In response Don recalled a detailed estimate from HB in 2014, where a proposed heat pump for the Town Office was estimated to have lower electricity costs than the estimated heating oil costs at $2.50 per gallon.
* Don agreed with HB that potential grants or other funding sources should be identified before HB is asked to make a site visit to prepare a detailed estimate.

**. Wall repair and paint** – Don and Matt will begin drywall repair on Saturday, April 9’th. As progress is made, a date will be projected for painting. Paint supply needs will be priced for Krista’s paint donation. Sandi suggested that walls and trim be initially painted the same color in order to simplify the work for the teen community service volunteers. Two or more committee members need to be designated to supervise during the volunteer painting day.

**. Rug cleaning and general cleaning day** – After discussion about home rug shampooers, Tina White suggested that the Committee look into renting a rug cleaner.

**. Solar installation possibilities** – The Committee needs help determining feasibility. Tina White cautioned about finding sources that would not charge for estimates.

* Would the scale of project be worthwhile for a company to invest in, leasing the site from the Town of Athens? Dave Bemis said that was not the case with the (larger) size solar project that could be accommodated in back of the Town Garage- Dave suggested that the Committee seek grants for a roof-mounted system with which the Town could earn credits on electricity costs for the Community Center and other municipal buildings.

**. Date and type of venue for fall open house** – Dave Bemis suggested an all-free event, perhaps a produce exhibition (and giveaway) and an event geared toward children. Matt Shea pondered possibilities for live music and perhaps a farm community meal (soup pot). Sandi called attention to the 10ft. X 20ft. tent stored in the basement. No date has been set yet.

**. Other Business**:

* With the completion of the exit sign installation, automatic door closers need to be installed on four doors at the top of the basement stairs in order to complete the protected corridor prescribed by Vt. Fire Safety. For this and other commercial door hardware Don would wish to contact Tavo Renoso to offer him the opportunity to quote on the hardware. Renoso donated approximately $2,500.00 worth of hardware to the Town Office Renovation effort in 2013.
* Don will provide estimates on short-term and long-term renovations to the ADA bathroom. He will also estimate costs for repairs to the entrance ramp and replacement of the basement exterior door.
* Sandi located folding tables priced at about $50.00. Tina thought Ocean State Job Lot may have municipal pricing available. Dave wondered if folding tables in a municipal setting have capacity requirements as office shelving does. Perhaps PACIF could help with this information. Dave also suggested the Committee look to a restaurant supply company as a source.

**. Date of next meeting** – Thursday, May 5, 2022, 6:30PM, Athens Community Center unless otherwise warned.

. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27PM (Dave Bemis moved to adjourn; Matt Shea seconding),

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli