**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of December 2, 2021 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Sandi Capponcelli at 6:40PM. Present were Sandi, Matt Shea, Tim Stevenson and Tina White.

. Matt Shea moved to approve the minutes of Oct. 7, 2021.

. There were no public comments.

**. Update from Fund Raising Sub-Committee-** Don drafted what he called a “*Dream Big* Wish List,” which looked at separate areas of the building in terms of what would be needed in an ideal situation if funding was available:

- Part of the list included lit exit signs and emergency lighting at all designated exit doors. An inspection by Vermont Fire Safety on Dec. 1 (see below) has now made the exit lighting a requirement. The requirement will not prevent use of the building for the December 15’th special town meeting. There were 7 different doors designated, and Don was told from other reliable sources to expect quotes in the area of $3,500.00 for all the doors combined. The committee wondered whether the line item for the building in the 2022 proposed budget would allow for an expense of this size. Don will contact VLCT to see if there might be any equipment grants available to help defray the costs.

- Earlier in the day the governor’s office announced the adoption of new renewable energy goals. Included in the goals was a large target for installations of heat pumps. Don wondered whether there would be a large amount of grant money dedicated to meeting these goals. Operating costs for air-source heat pumps could be significantly less than what is being spent on fuel oil for this and other Athens municipal buildings.

- Tim Stevenson re-iterated that the Subcommittee should convene to decide on meeting times with Gary Fox and Chris Campany to identify grant sources.

**. Review and Discussion of the Un-Tag Sale**:

* $522.00 was raised(!). The Committee can designate where the funds are to be spent. Sandi suggested interior improvements such as wall repair and paint and perhaps carpet cleaning. The neutral color matching the interior walls of the current Town Office was suggested as a color for the Community Center walls.
* Tina White will bring leftover clothing and boots to the Saxtons River School. Leftover desks and chairs will be moved to the basement level. All other remaining items will be discarded.

**. Inspection by Vermont Fire Safety**- Assistant State Fire Marshall Steve Dumont viewed the building on Dec. 1’st with Sandi, Don, Dennis Mirante and Matt Perry also present. A written report will be sent out in approximately one week:

* The alarm system inspection certificate has expired, and an inspection by a licensed technician has to be scheduled as soon as possible.
* Seven doors identified to be exit doors include the basement level exterior door and access door to the stairwell, all three doors on the main level assembly room, the door exiting the rest room foyer into the coat room and the exterior door to the ramp. In view of the current configuration of the three doors in the main assembly area, Mr. Dumont felt that an occupancy level of 75 persons was a comfortable level for that room. Should the room reach an occupancy greater than 75 but no greater than 100 persons, it was recommended that three persons be designated to direct people out the nearest of each of the three exits in the event of an emergency.
* The rest room foyer at the top of the basement stairs is designated to be part of a protected corridor exiting the basement via the stair well. To accomplish this, the 3 rest room doors and the door to the main assembly area are to be fitted with automatic door closers. The door from the foyer to the coat room has a closer but is not allowed to be blocked open.
* The ramp to the main level is to be checked to verify that the slope does not exceed one-inch-per-foot maximum. The ramp appears to exceed 30 inches total rise without an intermediate level rest platform. Handgrip rails are lacking as well as a curb rail at a maximum 4 inches above the ramp deck. Child-protective barriers (baulisters or other protective panels) are needed where the ramp exceeds 30 inches height above grade. Mr. Dumont strongly suggested that a plan be developed for improvements to the ramp.
* Other Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) items included a recommendation by Mr. Dumont that plans be developed for ADA parking as well as approach and access to the basement level exterior door. The door should be replaced with a door which includes levered exterior door hardware. The main level ADA rest room is not up to current code and would top the list of required ADA-related changes in the event that future building permit applications are filed. Mr. Dumont encouraged the Committee to look into Lula Lifts in lieu of future elevator requirements. Senator Pat Leahy’s office has been known to be of help with ADA-related grants in the recent past.

**. Dumpster Timeline/Teens & Community Service-** Teens needing community service hours have been lined-up through Matt Perry to clear out the building when a dumpster arrives. Sandi will contact Matt P. regarding a winter timeline for the dumpster. Teens will also be invited to participate in interior wall painting.

**. First steps concerning building after attic clean-out-** Don and Matt Shea expressed interest in doing the drywall repair needed prior to wall painting. Don will get prices on 4 automatic door closers to be installed with volunteer labor. Don will also seek authorization from the Selectboard chair to get estimates from licensed electricians for the emergency light installations.

. There was no other business.

. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22PM (Tina White moved to adjourn; seconded by Matt Shea). The next regularly-scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 6, 2022, 6:30PM, location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli