**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of March 2, 2023 meeting**

* The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by chairperson Sandi Capponcelli. Present were Sandi, Tina White, Matt Shea and Dennis Mirante, committee members. Also present was Don Capponcelli.
* The minutes of the February 2, 2023 meeting were approved without any additions or corrections (Matt Shea moved to accept; seconded by Dennis Mirante).
* **Sledding Party and other events** – It was decided not to have the sledding party that was considered for Sat., March 4’th. There was a brief discussion of possible spring events including a picnic. Matt Shea suggested the idea of a Beltane (Irish) Festival version of a Maypole. There was no action taken.
* **Grant Updates** – EPA and ACCD grant applications were not started due to a lack of time to meet the current April deadlines. Athens is not eligible for the ACCD planning grants because we do not have a Town Plan. Don is pursuing planning grants through USDA, Hannah Regier is submitting a grant application through Bernie Sanders’ office, and Don, Hannah and Janet Perry are watching for the opening of grant applications through the State of Vermont-administered Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). BDCC/SeVEDS is keeping Athens alerted to various webinars related to state and federal grants. Bonnie Waninger at VLCT has lists of projects identified for the Athens Community Center and Town Garage and is assisting Athens with a roadmap of potential grant sources.
* **Fundraiser for March 6’th Town Meeting** – Dessert donations are being solicited, we have coffee & coffee pot on-hand, 4 dozen donuts are being donated, and we have leftover soda from the Halloween Party. Sandi will pick up napkins, small plates, cups, sugar, cream creamer, stirrers and small bottles of water.
* **Other Business:**

**-Town Office relocation to Community Center** – At the February Selectboard meeting the CCAC failed to get an official charge from the Board to look into the possibility of moving the Town Office to the Community Center. The Board suggested the CCAC bring up the matter under other business at Town Meeting. Tina questioned whether the Town Office move might already be part of the CCAC original charge. Dennis suggests that planning be done before the issue is raised to the general public. Tina agrees that funding needs to be identified as well. It was generally agreed that to raise the issue on March 6 would create too much confusion.

**- $3500.00 budget** – Tina asks what we can plan to accomplish with the $3,500.00 Town Ledger line item dedicated to the Community Center building for 2023. It was agreed that we should look into changing the grade approaching the basement entrance door and replacing the retainer walls on the basement exterior.

**- private use inquiry** – A local family has expressed interest in use of the upstairs for a birthday party. Krista Gay will be approached for her expertise in drawing up a private use contract. There was discussion of an appropriate small fee that would not discourage use of the space but would lend a sense of responsibility to the renting parties.

* **Date of next meeting** – Thursday, April 6, 2023, 6:30PM, location to be announced.

-We are to develop a timeline for projects and events

-We will locate property line pins as weather allows

* The meeting was adjourned at 6:37PM (Matt Shea moved to adjourn; seconded by Tina White).

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli