**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of November 3, 2022 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Sandi Capponcelli at 6:37PM. Present were Sandi, Tina White, Dennis Mirante and Matt Shea, committee members. They were not able to get a video link for Krista Gay to attend remotely. Also present were Don Capponcelli and Lilly Justice.

. There were no changes to the agenda.

. The minutes of the October 6, 2022 meeting were approved without any additions or corrections (Matt Shea moved to accept; Tina White seconding).

**. Review of the Halloween Party event** (held Sat. Oct. 29, 2022):

* Attendance was better than anticipated, 45 persons in attendance, perhaps more. Attendees were mostly Athens residents- Only 3 families were from out of town.
* We need more platters for events of this nature.
* The advertising in advance of the event seemed adequate.
* There was a donation of $230.00 in gift cards. Has this set a precedent?
* No balloons for next year’s event- The children were too wound-up. At $1.39 for each helium-filled balloon, this item was too expensive.
* Next year’s Halloween Party should start earlier to accommodate a hay ride. The event should be reduced in length to about 2 – 2 ½ hours.
* Costume judging should be earlier and more organized- Perhaps ballots so that all attendees could vote.
* April Lyman has offered to work with teens to set up a haunted house in the basement level next year.
* We need a better food setup to reduce the long line at the food table.
* We need more advance time for planning the event (There should be an August start date to the planning).

**. Winter Party/ Sledding Party event discussion:**

* Date of event- late February, perhaps Feb. 18’th? Major snowfall is more likely at that time of year.
* We might need bales of hay
* We will prohibit runner sleds for safety reasons
* Bring your own sled
* Hot chocolate, water and juice (and smores(?)) to be provided; will solicit donations of cookies
* No bonfires (Town property)
* Alternate dates should be set at the time of advertising
* Sandi is to contact VLCT to see if sledding party and fall hay ride are covered under Town insurance.

**. Grant discussion:**

* No applications are out yet for the Community Center- We need help from a grant writer; Gary Fox was booked-up at last contact.
* We have quotes on converting the existing lighting to LED
* We have an approximate idea of the cost of replacing the insulation in the attic and upgrading to R-60 with blown-in cellulose insulation.
* We have a quote on mini-splits (air-source heat pumps) for the assembly room of the building.
* We have a quote on a back-up generator for the facility.

 **. ARPA Money discussion** – The Town appears to be in-line to receive upwards of $130,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (approximately $60,000 is now in-hand). Time period to expend funds is not known by the committee. How decisions are made by the Town to expend funds is not yet known. The funds are thought to be for infrastructure-only, and the Town Garage also needs mold mitigation work, insulation upgrades, bathroom and other infrastructure needs. There appears to be a need for planning for Town matching funds for grant applications in general.

**. Repair item – electric-related** – Circuit #9, which supplies electricity to all the bathrooms and outside lighting, appears to be dead. Don is to contact HB Energy Solutions to have them check out the problem. (Drop lights and extension cords were run-out for the Halloween party).

**. Nearer-term planning:**

* Don has begun scale drawings of the bathroom/ utility closet area and has an idea for upgraded ADA bathroom with ADA-compliant shower stall.
* Rentals – We should hold off until Spring. There is still some Vt. Fire Safety-related work to be completed, and we need to work-out a use contract (with Krista’s help (?))
* Can we prioritize replacement of flooring in the Assembly Room? Don is to look for recommendations and costs for vinyl floor options- Can the Town possibly stock the job for us to do with volunteer labor (Don C., Matt Shea and others)? The same type of flooring could be used for the entrance Coat Wing and the bathroom areas.
* Sandi and Tina White are to begin getting the Coat Wing walls ready for volunteer painting.

. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM (Tina White moved to adjourn; Matt Shea seconding)

Respectfully submitted,

Don Capponcelli