**ATHENS COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Draft of Minutes of September 7, 2023 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order by chairperson Sandi Capponcelli at 6:40PM. Present were Sandi, Tina White and Krista Gay, committee members. Also present was Don Capponcelli.

. Approval of the June and August meeting minutes was tabled to the next regular meeting.

**. Review of Bake Sale Fundraiser in Grafton** – Tina White, Lily Justice and Krista Gay operated a donation bake sale booth at the Tractor Show in Grafton on Sept. 2’nd. There were donations of baked goods from 4 Athens families. $201.00 in donations was raised. Proceeds were given to the Athens Town Treasurer to be kept in a reserve fund for the Community Center.

* A discrepancy had been noticed in the advertised times for the event. One advertisement had the event starting at 10AM; the other had the event starting at 11AM.
* It was not clear in advance from the event organizer that there would also be other bake sales at the event.
* There are many leftovers of baked goods in various freezers being held in reserve for the chili cookoff. The tablecloth used was inexpensive ($3.99) and it was agreed that duplicate tablecloths would serve well at the chili cookoff and other future events

**. Sept. 30 Chili Cookoff Plans** – Krista has heard from 14 applicants for the event, with recipes including vegan and chocolate chili. E-mail confirmation is needed from the applicants. There has also been expressed interest in a cornbread contest as part of the event. Planning for the event will anticipate 50 people in attendance.

* There will be a $5.00 admission fee, which even the contestants will have to pay. There will be no charge for children 5 yrs. old and under. There will be sodas on-ice for $1.00 each.
* A private donation will cover the $100.00, $50.00 and $25.00 gift cards as well as a trophy and a plaque.
* Contestants will be anonymous, there will be no servers, and voting will be by number.
* As a comprehensive list of ingredients for each chili recipe will not be known, it was agreed that there should be a sign indicating that taste-testing will be at each individual’s own allergy risk.
* Signage advertising the event is planned for the Cambridgeport bridge and for the intersection of Rte. 30 and Brookline Road. Don will inquire about the availability of the Community Christian Church portable sign board.
* Don is to check on the number and location of available circuits for the crock pots involved. He has some of the heavy-duty extension cords and splitters that will be needed.

**. Other Business:**

1. **Halloween Party** – Tentatively set at Friday, Oct. 27 (Alternate date Sunday, Oct. 29). There is an anticipated private donation of Dunkin Donut gift cards for contest winners. Based on last year’s experience balloons will be avoided, and the hay contest will be held outdoors.
2. There was discussion of having the **Children’s Christmas Shop** event in late October, with a $5.00 admission allowing each child to select 5 gifts. Advertising for the event and for donations should begin by the end of September.
3. Sandi is going to look into the possibility of painting the coat room in September.
4. The Committee sees the need to recruit more members.

. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11PM (Tina White moved to adjourn; Krista Gay seconding).

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli