

**FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND FIRE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 2024 9:30AM
LOCATION: TOWNSEND TOWN HALL - SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

ATTENDEES: Donna Fischer Wanda Laste Terri Heyrman Dean VanderHeiden
Joe Heyrman Mike VandeWalle Heidi VandeWalle Dacon Franzen
Linda VanderHeiden Ray Scheifen Pam DeMoulin Chuck DeMoulin
Pam VanOss Bruce VanOss Deb Franzen Nancy Smith

Wanda Laste, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Please complete the attendance sheet with your full contact info if you are not receiving regular email updates & reminders.

Motion made to Approve the Saturday November 16, 2024 FOTF Membership meeting minutes by Dean VanderHeiden, seconded by Terri Heyrman. Motion carried.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/OLD BUSINESS:

-TFD meeting room new floor started this week. Thank you to those who came out again to help with moving many items from the meeting room into the apparatus bays. Once completed help may be needed to bring the items back into the meeting room. Keep an eye out for an email if help is needed.

-Townsend Tree Lighting Ceremony took place Sunday December 1st. It was a fun event of caroling, cocoa & cookies. Be sure to drive by the Town Hall and take a look at the lit-up trees. Neighboring towns have even mentioned how nice they look! A few comments were.. to light up the trees all day long or light earlier in the evening. Also that some families/businesses that would have wanted to sponsor a tree did not have the opportunity before all trees were spoken for. Overall, the whole project & event went very well for our first time doing it!! Thank you Joe, Mike V and anyone else who helped with this project. The trees will need to be dismantled sometime in January (Joe H will determine a date). Linda V has volunteered to burn our names into the wooden ornament rounds in case we want to use them again in the future.

-TFD Recognition Plaque names are being verified. The committee will then work on the plaque itself coordinating the look with the Town Board. Thank you Anita, Dawn, Claude, Linda.

-FOTF website and FB page continues to be updated by Anita. Be sure to take a look! Watch the FOTF Calendar for upcoming events. Take a Look at the Photo Gallery. Donation Button is up and operational. If you have any suggestions or ideas of what else to put on our website or FB page, please contact Anita.

-Grant Writing Crew met last week. Next meeting scheduled for Monday January 6, 2025 9:30am. Thank you to Donna F for working on the narrative and cover letter needed for our Grant submissions. The committee is working on a Grant with WPS for funds for gas monitors. They are also looking into a 'grant' from Fleet Farm. Dacon reported he is working on a Grant for Dry Hydrants. Chuck D reported a Grant was received for Wildfire Assessments. Contact Ray S if interested in joining this committee.

-Next Can Run will be after Christmas. We will continue to monitor as the bins start filling up after the Holidays. Keep an eye out for an email with the date to assist in loading the Can Truck.

Can Truck vs Trailer: The can truck will not last forever and FOTF does not 'own' this truck. FOTF has been given the opportunity to purchase the current Can Truck at a bargain price. At a prior meeting there was also mention of a possible trailer in the area that might work for our needs but details, costs, etc for the trailer would not be available until later March 2025. We will keep both of these options in mind and review again once the trailer information is available.

-Holiday Thank You cards were sent out to those who donated to FOTF over the past year. Thanks Pam V for getting that job completed!!

-Visit the FOTF Online Store linked to the FOTF website. There are many different items available including clothing, hats, aprons, mugs, etc. Buy an FOTF item for yourself or a friend. *Our supplier is considering shutting down our Store due to low purchasing volume.* FOTF Board has discussed possibly ordering a bulk of t-shirts, hoodies, etc to have available and 'sell' at our events. To be discussed again at a future meeting.

-The new Sparky costume is in!! If anyone is interested in playing Sparky at an event, please let Wanda or Anita know. Anita has been playing Sparky over the past year and says it's a great time.

-Question presented to the membership: *Is membership interested in a TFD tour along with explanation/demonstration of some of the tools & equipment recently purchased through FOTF funding?* This would be exclusive to FOTF membership only. Membership

was In Favor of this idea!! This is a great opportunity for the FOTF membership to see and understand what our efforts are going towards. Wanda will review with Chief Dawn for some time in February or March 2025.

-Suggestions:

To assist in growing our membership it was suggested that we put on the website & FB page that 'membership is free' and 'requires NO mandatory hours'. (unlike joining an ATV club or other organizations in the area).

-RAFFLE with A SPRING EVENT: Membership had a very productive discussion of holding a Spring CASH Raffle to coincide with Turning your Clocks Forward for DayLight Savings Time. The drawing for this raffle would take place Saturday March 8, 2025 at the end of a FREE community spaghetti dinner. We would be able to remind people to not only turn your clocks forward but to also CHECK BATTERIES in your smoke alarms/detectors. Fire safety information would be available for handout. Besides the main raffle drawing we could also have door prizes of smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, etc. Possibly 50/50 raffle or other fun games or activities. The meal itself would be free. CASH raffle prizes and pricing, etc were discussed & determined at the membership meeting. Mike V has volunteered to head the spaghetti dinner portion in getting prices, etc. Deb F will work on the Raffle Tickets, letter etc. But we will need more help with other tasks for this Event & Raffle as it gets closer. Keep an eye out for a subcommittee meeting email.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Membership was able to review the **FOTF 2025 Budget** recently completed by the Board. A similar format will be available and updated for each membership meeting.

-Open discussion on what happened in Lakewood to their Fire Department fund raised monies. More importantly our membership had a candid discussion as to how we can prevent this from happening here at FOTF. The membership was advised of a number of safeguards already put in place. Other suggests such as an Annual Audit were discussed. Wanda will follow-up on this suggestion. If anyone has further questions or concerns regarding this topic, please reach out to any FOTF Board member.

DATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday Jan 6th 9:30am: Grant Writing Committee Meeting. Bring a Friend!

Saturday Jan 18th 9:30am: FOTF November Membership Meeting

Watch for emails for next **Can Day** and the **Spring Event & Raffle subcommittee meeting**

Motion made to Adjourn by Linda V, seconded by Pam D. Motion carried. Adjourned 11:00am.

Thank you everyone who attended! This was a longer than usual meeting but we discussed and accomplished a LOT!!! Thank you for all the ideas and input!! -Wanda

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

(Meeting minutes submitted by Wanda Laste, Chair. (In the absence of Secretary Anita Szyszkiewicz.)

12/26/24