

**FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND FIRE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2024 9:30AM
LOCATION: TOWNSEND FIRE DEPT MEETING ROOM**

ATTENDEES: Duane Bann Wanda Laste Terri Heyrman Roberta Glisczinski
Joe Heyrman Mike VandeWalle Heidi VandeWalle Dianne Williams
Linda VanderHeiden John Zeller Michelle Grobe

Wanda Laste, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31am.

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

Motion made to Approve the August 17, 2024 FOTF Membership meeting minutes by Terri Heyrman, seconded by Mike VandeWalle. Motion carried.

Motion made to Approve the September 21, 2024 FOTF Membership meeting minutes by Mike VandeWalle, seconded by Diane Williams. Motion carried.

-Parking: Please do not park in front of the Highway or Fire Dept garage doors.

-TFD is getting a new floor starting Monday. Thank you to those who came out this past week to help with moving many items from the apparatus bays to storage or other places. Help may be needed again once the garage floors are completed to move items back into the bays. Keep an eye out for an email to help.

-TFD Open House was held Saturday Sept 28th. It appeared to be very well received by those who came. **This was a Community Awareness event, not a Fund Raiser.** We had Sparky the Fire Pup, Oconto County K9, Fire Extinguishers & Fire Blanket demos, Door Prizes, Cookies and more. Thank you Pam, Pam, Dee, Anita from FOTF and TFD members for the help that day!

-TFD Recognition **Plaque names are being finalized & verified.** Then the committee will be working on the plaque itself. Thank you Anita, Dawn, Claude, Linda.

-FOTF website has been updated. **Be sure to take a look!** Check out the online store to get your FOTF apparel. Watch the FOTF Calendar for upcoming events. Take a Look at the Photo Gallery. Donation Button is up and operational. Some impressive FOTF website numbers: Site Visitors to Date: 2000. Chats in Last 30 days: 11. Social Views To Date:

2497. If you have any suggestions or ideas of what else to put on our website, please contact Anita.

-Grant Writing Crew had a meeting this past week. They are making great progress in narrowing down the best organizations to approach for grants and working on writing standard cover letters and applications to be used once approaching an organization.

Next Grant Crew meeting will be November 14th at 11am. Contact Ray S if interested in joining this committee.

-FOTF Board has most recently been working on **Budget setting for 2025**. This is a new process for our organization as there was no budget previously set under Townsend Firemen's Wives.

-Cans are being collected on a regular basis. Thanks to Chuck, Joe, Kevin, Bruce, Gerry and Dee for helping the past few runs. Discussion for a backup to the Can Truck if it would be 'de-commissioned'. Suggestions was to **get a trailer** (rather than a Truck), enclosed or with sides & a tarp? Further discussion at future meetings.

-Townsend Christmas Tree Project 2024 is underway! There are 15 Christmas trees to be set up in the area between the Town Hall and the ATV/Snowmobile trail. These are expected to be set by November 15th. Each tree will have a sponsor to decorate the tree as they want. A Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Sunday December 1st. This event is being led by the Townsend Festival/Events Committee. **FOTF will be sponsoring a Tree with our decorating to take place on Saturday November 16th after our FOTF Membership meeting.** Watch for emails on further details for decorating. Terri H was able to request Thrivent Funds of \$250, further discussion as to how this should be spent.

-Suggestions/Comments/Concerns: We would like to know your thoughts as to how you think FOTF has been working over the past year. What's working well? What isn't? How can the Board improve? How can we keep members engaged and involved? This topic will be brought up at future meetings so feel free to bring your ideas to meetings or reach out to Wanda or any Board member.

Suggestion to maybe hold a Community Pancake Breakfast in the Spring 2025. Not necessarily as a fund raiser but just as a Community Event. This might be difficult to gauge how much food to order. May discuss this idea again at a future meeting.

Suggestion to check into Wholesalers for food for our big events, such as Badger Wholesale. Possibly a big price difference? Discussion led to FOTF wants to support our local businesses and grocery stores as we often ask them for donations for our events

also. Although we may not be following up with this suggestion, it is a valid point and led to a good discussion.

DATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thursday Oct 31st 4-6pm: Townsend Trunk or Treat Town Hall parking lot.

Dress up, decorate your car, bring treats to pass out to the kids!

Thursday Nov 14th 11am: Grant Writing Committee Meeting. Bring a Friend!

Saturday Nov 16th 9:30am: FOTF November Membership Meeting

Following the Meeting we will be Decorating our Christmas Tree!

Sunday Dec 1st: Townsend Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Townsend Town Hall.

Motion made to Adjourn by Linda V, seconded by John Z. Motion carried. Adjourned 10:16am.

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

10/22/24