Freedom and Unity Committee
April 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Craftsbury Public Library

Present: Jeannine Young, Bru Mille, Susie Houston, Emma Stout, Ada Allen, Wendy Turnbull
Absent: Daniel Solomon

- Two local high school students – Emma Stout and Ada Allen – attended the 4/1 Freedom & Unity meeting after expressing interest in joining. We introduced ourselves and Susie gave an overview of how the group started and what we've been doing.
- Another neighbor, Christine Rubino, who's interested in joining Freedom & Unity following the 2025 town meeting was unable to make the 4/1 meeting.

Working Group updates:

- Craftsbury University – April 25-May 18, 2025
    - Class schedule is nearly final; 22 classes will be on offer. Bru is putting together the JotForm sign-up and expects to post on FPF within the week. Signage from last year will be reused.
    - Help needed from F&U – spread the word about signing up for classes.
    - Supplies needed for classes – may need to purchase printmaking supplies in advance. Bru will let Wendy know so we can purchase in advance with grant funds (or get reimbursed after).
    - Ice cream social / graduation party – will be held on May 18th, last day of Craftsbury Univ. Bru has reserved the Common.
- Civics Education
    - Craftsbury Academy principal has reached out to Jeannine about observing Memorial Day with students. In-person meeting with principal is TBD, preferably by end of April.
    - Fri May 23 is a half-day for students; organize community lunch on the Common again after the Memorial Day program.
    - Group began brainstorming about speakers, music, etc. Emma and Ada shared their feedback on last year's event for us to take into consideration.
- Leadership – no update. Wendy will follow-up with Daniel regarding the survey results indicating strong support for a multi-town forum to learn how other towns are strengthening their capacity to manage the growing demands on selectboards and town clerks, especially when it comes to federal, state grants.

Other business:

- F&U committee appointments were made by the selectboard for one year.
- Declaration of Inclusion: Craftsbury is the 161st town to adopt; Susie will get the word out and begin thinking about implementation next steps.
- Wendy proposed a possible Fall screening of *Join or Die* about "how declining community engagement created an American civic crisis." It's currently streaming on Netflix. Wendy will research what's involved in organizing a community-wide screening and report back.

Next meeting:

- Weds May 14 @ 5pm
- Freedom & Unity will meet the 2nd Weds of the month going forward. 5:00pm is a better start time for most everyone.