Freedom and Unity Committee
June 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Craftsbury Public Library

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

Working Group updates:

- Craftsbury University – April 25-May 18, 2025
    - The working group held a debrief meeting; overall feeling the 2nd year was a success.
    - Decided they should conduct a survey at the end of every class next year, try to find more classes that appeal to the young men in our community and bring in more community spaces like the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

- Civics Education
    - Memorial Day event with Craftsbury Academy was held on the rain date, Tues May 27th, which was a regular day of school for students. Community participation not as good this year, probably because it was the Tuesday after Memorial Day holiday.
    - A few takeaways: be more proactive about taking pictures of the event, find a band, and explore ways to encourage greater community participation.

- Leadership
    - The working group is scheduled to meet the week of June 16th. Daniel will report out.

Other business:

- Wendy shared a request from the Greensboro Communications Working Group to partner with F&U in hosting a “Community Legislative Update” on Sat June 28th, 10a-12p, at the Highland Center for the Arts. Invited speakers: Sen Sam Douglass and Rep Leanne Harple, followed by a brief, hands-on legislative workshop led by Katherine Sims (based on the same program she did at CPL in April). After some discussion, the committee agreed to co-sponsor the event but in-person participation by F&U members may be limited due to existing commitments. We will help with publicity via FPF. Wendy will get back to Greensboro group.
- Vermont Council on Rural Development Summit on Mon Aug 11, 2025 in Randolph. Susan Clark reached out to see if Craftsbury F&U would be willing to serve on panel with other towns discussing town meeting day changes and civic engagement. We agreed this is a good opportunity to share what Craftsbury Freedom & Unity has been up to and how it’s going. Wendy will confirm our participation.
- Kid Governor program announced by Vermont Sec of State for fifth graders starting in 2025-26 school year. This is a national civic education initiative that emerged from the state of Connecticut. F&U will reach out to Craftsbury Academy principal and teachers about how we can support CA’s participation.
- Farley Brown, Sterling College, reached out to Jeannine about a student doing a project on town governance. The student will interview Jeannine about town moderator role and duties, among other issues.

Next meeting:

- Weds Sept 10 @ 5pm, Craftsbury Public Library