Freedom and Unity Committee
December 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Craftsbury Public Library

Present: Jeannine Young, Bru Mille, Ada Allen, Susie Houston, Daniel Solomon, Wendy Turnbull, Michelle Warren, Town Clerk (for first half of meeting)
Absent: Emma Stout

Working Group updates:

- Civics Education
  - Jeannine has reached out to Lisa McCarthy, Principal, Craftsbury Academy about getting ready for Town Meeting Day activities–sticker contest, mock town meeting with grades 3-5.
- Leadership
  - Follow-up from Oct public forum – what are some options for Craftsbury, how best to move forward with town and SB for full discussion? Propose article in warning of town meeting asking SB to consider/explore feasibility of hiring a p/t SB assistant. Refer back to Wolcott job descriptions that Linda shared after the Oct forum.

Other business:

- Preparations for Town Meeting Day
  - Positions up for election in 2026 – Michelle reported that town website shows open positions. She's checking with incumbents as to whether they plan to run again. All candidates need to complete a consent form and submit a signature petition. Deadline?
  - New policy re budget requests – local organizations (eg, library, 4Cs, and others) need to collect signatures from five percent of Craftsbury voters (~75 voters) to receive an appropriation in the town's 2026 budget. Deadline for submitting to Town Clerk is Jan 16. This is a one-time process for local organizations, UNLESS they request an increased appropriation in a given year.
  - 2026 budget preview session – SB intends to finalize budget 3rd week of January. Bru will attend next SB meeting to ask if a public meeting is planned and how we can assist.
  - F&U to begin communicating on FPF about approps, elected positions, etc.
  - Town report – deadline for committee reports is Fri Jan 9. Agreed that Jeannine, Bru and Daniel will share draft paragraphs by Jan 6. Wendy will craft into draft committee report and circulate for review & comments by Jan 7.
  - F&U will resume bi-weekly meetings re TMD logistics starting in Jan
- Meeting of town commissions & committees – discussion postponed until Jan/Feb

Next meeting:

- Weds Jan 14 @ 5pm, Craftsbury Public Library
  (NOTE: Education Reform session @ Craftsbury Academy, 6-7pm)