Freedom and Unity Committee
January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Craftsbury Public Library

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

Working Group updates:

- Civics Education
    - Jeannine, Susie and Ada met with Craftsbury Academy principal Lisa McCarthy to discuss mock town meeting for grades 3-5 and holding another sticker contest for students.
    - The mock town meeting will be held on Mon February 16 at 1:30pm, Craftsbury Academy. A fifth grader will co-moderate with Jeannine.
    - The sticker contest deadline for students is January 29. F&U will judge the entries at the Feb 11 meeting if not sooner. Need to print bigger stickers this year, and may use different vendor as last year's stickers were difficult to peel off from the backing.
- Leadership
    - Learned that the Planning Commission has officially recommended a p/t 'community development coordinator' to work with the selectboard to solicit and manage grants for the town. SB has earmarked $5,000 for the position in the FY2026 budget, with the expectation that the community development coordinator will secure new grant funds to cover their p/t salary.
    - Timely reminder for F&U: town committees and commissions should convene 1-2 times per year–with SB members and the Town Clerk–to share workplans, strategize and collaborate where possible.

Other business:

- Preparations for Town Meeting Day
    - Michelle believes SB is interested in holding a public informational session to walk through the budget and answer questions. Early Feb would be ideal, giving town clerk and SB time to finalize the annual report, which will include mentions of child care, etc.
    - No TM postcard will go out this year.
    - Wendy to attend the Jan 20 SB meeting to give an update and inquire about informational meeting, which F&U will support.
    - With the exception of one auditor position, all incumbents intend to run again and are gathering voter signatures and submitting consent forms to the town clerk. Deadline is Fri January 23rd. Ideas for potential auditor candidates would be helpful.
    - Susie is point for childcare; Bru for food & refreshments with CA class/es; Jeannine & Daniel for sound system & accessibility. Wendy will draft FPF schedule for committee review.
    - F&U report for town annual report was submitted on time. Thanks to all!

Next meeting:

- TBD: Weds Feb 4th and/or 11th @ 5pm, Craftsbury Public Library