Freedom and Unity Committee
May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Craftsbury Public Library

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

Working Group updates:

- Craftsbury University (4/24 - 5/17)
    - Great success in its 3rd year; 24 classes offered, primarily on weekends but some were held during the week.
    - About same number of participants from last year, though folks signed up for more classes this time. Very few no-shows, also. Working group members and 'instructors' communicated more often via FPF and reminded everyone of upcoming classes, which seemed to have helped.
    - More men participated in CU this year than in the past. Continue this focus in 2027.
    - A handful of classes were pulled from CU due to liability concerns. Liability insurance is possible for a brief window of time; look into for 2027.
    - Graduation & ice cream social – Sunday May 17 @ 2pm, on the Common
- Civics Education
    - Memorial Day observance will be May 22 @ 9am (it's a half day for students)
    - Students will do a few readings, musicians helping with These Green Hills, This Land is Your Land and other music. CA has someone to play Taps and Joe Welker will lead prayer at cemetery. Kristy LaMare is confirmed for making a wreath for the event. Susie has ordered cookies from CVillage for students and community members.
    - Will post on FPF to encourage broader participation.
- Leadership
    - Daniel reported that his quest for a co-chair continues. He expects to be back in town in June.

Other business:

- F&U Committee budget – largely spent after paying expenses from Town Meeting Day and Craftsbury University. Can draw from overall town committee budget going forward, but worth exploring small grant opportunities. Especially after the new grants administrator is hired.
- Community Legislative Update is happening – Sat June 6 from 10am-12pm at Craftsbury Town Hall. Lt Gov John Rodgers, Sen John Morley and Rep Leanne Harple are confirmed. Wendy to draft & post flyer and reach out to Greensboro folks about helping. Sign up for refreshments and FPF posts forthcoming. Will be good to reach out to The Chronicle and Hardwick Gazette about it.
- Voter registration – a community member asked if we had plans for a voter registration drive this summer during the Farmers' Market, etc. Michelle reported that most residents are registered. Discussion focused on developing a communications plan to get the word out (and clarify) about key dates, mail in voting, etc. Agreed we will coordinate any comms with Town Clerk.
- Agreed F&U will organize a candidates' forum in Sept/Oct (there are still two more weeks for candidates to declare). Reach out to Craftsbury Academy to gauge interest in hosting (a la the candidate forum the school organized in fall 2024, which was largely student-led.)
- Meeting of town commissions & committees – propose SB & Town Clerk schedule in November, prior to holidays and budget planning season.

Next meeting:

- Weds June 10, 5-6pm at Craftsbury Public Library