

## Craftsbury Civics Education Committee

Meeting Notes for Thursday, January 4, 2024  
Sterling College President's Conference Room

Present: Jeannine Young, Bill Day, Paige Hartsell, Hallie Grossman, Carol Ceraldi

Guests: Rose Friedman (The Civic Standard), Stephen Murphy (Woodbury Town Moderator)

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Selection of Chair and Recorder

- Jeannine Young will chair the committee, and Bill Day volunteered to serve as recorder.

#### 2. Review Goal Statement

- At our initial meeting, the proposed goal statement was: "To build knowledge and enthusiasm for civic engagement in Craftsbury"
- Discussion: What does "civic engagement" mean – what do people understand it to mean? How will this committee's work fit with and build on the work of other groups working along similar lines in Craftsbury (e.g. the school vision effort)?
- After discussion, a revised goal statement was proposed and adopted:

To build enthusiasm for participating in the shaping of the community.

#### 3. Mock Town Meeting

- Stephen Murphy described the process and outcomes of the Mock Town Meeting conducted at Woodbury Elementary School in March 2023, a week before Woodbury Town Meeting. Before the event, the school and the public library promoted the Mock Town Meeting on multiple levels, such as art projects and suggested readings on topics like civic engagement and democracy. Civic leaders contributed to this effort, including the fire chief, town lister, animal control officer, select board members.
- The Woodbury Mock Town Meeting was designed to give the children a complete experience of "real" Town Meeting: The town clerk and constable were present and two ballot measures were debated and voted on. The children were prepared for the event with discussions about civility in disagreement, listening, etc.
- About two months of planning went into the event.
- Rose Friedman spoke about Civic Standard's goal of making the Mock Town Meeting replicable.
- Is there time to organize a Craftsbury Schools Mock Town Meeting in late February, in ahead of the March 5 Town Meeting? Jeannine and Carol will set up a meeting with Principal Matt Foster to propose it.
- Carol reminded members that the Civics Education in Schools program, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Election Issues & Democracy Speaker Series, will take place in person and live-streamed on January 10 at 7:00pm. Also, the Craftsbury Schools Vision Process is seeking volunteers.

#### 4. Town Meeting Preview: Saturday, January 20

- The promotional postcard should note that childcare will be available.
- Jeannine will ask Jen McKenzie from the library to provide childcare.

- Paige Hartsell will get the revised (with childcare) card distributed at the Craftsbury Food Shelf.
- Setup: Bill Day and Jeannine will be at Town Hall January 19 at 3:00pm.
- Refreshments: Jeannine (coffee), Halle (cookies), Paige (beverage), Wendy Turnbull (cinnamon rolls and maple scones).

#### 5. Outreach

- Carol, Jeannine and Paige/Bill took lists of names to call: Craftsbury voters who have not recently attended Town Meeting.

#### 6. Next Meeting

- The Mock Town Meeting will have its own subgroup.
- The Civics Education Committee will meet next on Wednesday, January 17, 6:30pm, at Mager Hall, Sterling College.

Submitted by Bill Day