

FREEDOM & UNITY

SUBGROUP: REIMAGINING BOARD & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 6-7PM, CRAFTSBURY LIBRARY

AGENDA

- Brainstorm new issues/Ideas for future research/investigation
- Identify volunteers to take on research/investigation of new ideas raised in this meeting and for ideas previously raised (see below)

MINUTES by Daniel Solomon

Attendees: Alan Turnbull, Jerry Ralya, Maisie Franke, Lori Mathez, Daniel Solomon

The subgroup reviewed the issues that have been raised at past Subcommittee meetings and at the big Freedom and Unity events on Oct 17 and Nov 5 2023, with an eye toward finding a volunteer(s) to take on researching them:

- Youth Commissioners (appoint youth members to town committees) and increasing overall youth participation in town – Maisie said she would take on researching this and would propose next steps at a future meeting.
- Increasing participation in town events and life by underrepresented groups – Jerry said he would take this on, with a special emphasis on addressing the special issues faced by migrant workers who live here. Jerry hopes someone else will want to join him in this work.
- Five-member Selectboard Study (research the possible pros/cons of moving from 3- to 5-member selectboard, investigate Craftsbury's and other towns' experiences) – Lori said she would take on researching this, with support from Alan, and would propose next steps at a future meeting. Lori also has several people who were on an email thread about this and other town issues. She will reach out to them to see if they would join her efforts.
- Improving communication among committees and the Select Board. – Alan pushed this idea further, suggesting that committees should have a specific time to meet with the Select Board, maybe once a year or once every two years, and perhaps the entire committee could attend and have a chance for each member to provide their perspective to the Select Board on the committee's work. Alan will follow up on this idea.

New Ideas:

- Alan raised the idea of this subgroup serving as a “Brain Trust” to provide advice to anyone who wants to get anything done in town. Not to provide substantive support, but to help them figure out the procedures for creating change in Craftsbury, e.g. how to bring up an issue to the Select Board, what resources the Town Clerk might be able to provide, etc.
- Several members of the subgroup expressed concern that our mandate, and that of the overall Freedom and Unity Task Force, is unclear. All agreed that we are not clear about what issues we can or should research and what should happen with our research findings. It was agreed that we all would benefit from a written set of guidelines that are approved by the Select Board. The guidelines may be narrow or quite broad, but we would like to know what is our authority – Daniel said he would reach out to Wendy, as the Task Force Coordinator, to discuss how we should proceed to get more clarity in our relationship with the Select Board.