



## Director Report July 22, 2024

### Administrative

- Starting a New Year: July 1 was the start of Fiscal Year 2025. With that, the Board's first meeting (July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm) will be a re-organizational meeting, where by officers will be elected, committees assigned, and meeting dates & times will be set.
- Welcome New Board Members: Welcome Sammy & Stefan to the Board, who were newly-elected at the Annual Meeting. Newt was re-elected to another term. We now have a Board of 7, down one seat from last year.
- Outgoing Board Members: Thank you to the 3 outgoing Board members for their service- George Thomson (19 years), Noah Schmidt (8 years), and Zachary McNaughton (3 years)
- Staffing Updates: Rebekah has been promoted to the role of Station Manager, taking over more of the management of daily activities and also managing our social media platforms. As previously reported, we have Gavin Greenawalt & Sarah Devereux working with us, both on part-time interim basis. Gavin has been working an average of 1 shift per week and is with us through Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sarah is filling in where needed, mostly doing field production work. It has been great to have the extra help. Peter continued to work 2-3 days per week.

### Production / New Programming / Volunteers / Training

- Tasty Twist Podcast: Sammy Blanchette has launched a new podcast showcasing Vermont-based musicians, "The Tasty Twist". The premiere episode was with Alison Turner (aka "Ali T"), a critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter from Royalton. He is back in the studio this week with another episode; in fact, he has 16 episodes scheduled to record in the studio over the next couple of months!
- Other New Shows: Will Simoneau (TecGym Productions) continues to provide a high volume of youth sports programming, including Summer basketball tournaments taking place next door at the Community Center and Legion baseball on Pullinen field. Thanks to Lisa for covering the "Lake Wise" kickoff meeting at the library last week. Rebekah made a short promotional video about the community lunches at the Community Center, which are organized by Black River Good Neighbors & Senior Solutions. She also interviewed Claire in the studio about the upcoming VT Film Festival (this Thursday – Sunday in Woodstock). The "Average Daves" continue to record their bi-weekly podcast in the studio. We also have a couple of Summer concerts coming up that we are planning to record, and we're also hoping to get this week's Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting recorded. As always, our staff is busy covering local government meetings – July happens to be a slightly lighter month, but the schedule will be ramping back up soon. We also have a couple of great new short interstitials / station IDs created by Gavin. Peter is creating a new membership promotional video for us to use – we need to be focused right now on our Summer membership drive (more on that below).
- Training Sessions: Rebekah has scheduled a training session for staff & volunteers, including Board members, for this Wednesday afternoon at 2PM. The topic of this session will be on

setting up for hybrid meetings & events. This is something we can build on, to create an ongoing series of training sessions on different topics.

### **Community Engagement / Fundraising**

- Low Power FM: There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the community radio advisory committee last month. The group requested & was awarded \$20K in ARPA funding from the Town of Ludlow. The funds are intended for the purchase of the antenna, transmitter, emergency alert system, computers, & hardware for getting the broadcast radio station up & running (we're using Black River Radio as a placeholder name for now). The Town is interested in using it for emergency alert services. The advisory committee will be meeting again soon, though no date has been set for that yet.
- Producer Awards: Our 2024 producer award recipients are Claire McKey Berkman (Producer of the Year), Amy McMullen (Youth Programming award), Will Simoneau / TecGym (Community Service award), and Rev. Joseph & Jessica Arnold (Outstanding Achievement).
- Grant Writing / Fundraising: Fundraising efforts grant application was submitted to The Windham Foundation on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We should be hearing about that one within the next month or two. Sometime in August or September, we should be hearing from VT Arts Council about our \$20,000 Cultural Facilities grant request. I am re-grouping with our grant writer, Donna Lubrano; we will be starting the next application on our list.  
Film Screening: Last weekend, Stefan & Wendy premiered their new short film "The Forgotten", about the impact of last Summer's flood on their road (Depot Street in Proctorsville). They would like to hold a screening outside our building, which I think is a great idea. I have been talking with them about a date We have discussed doing it as soon as Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Summer Membership Drive- It is time for our annual membership drive and campaign. This should be the first task for the Community Engagement Committee – hopefully we can get a meeting ASAP.

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