



### **New Ferrisburgh non-profit gets \$4,000 arts grant**

The Friends of Ferrisburgh were recently awarded a \$4,000 Animating Infrastructure Grant from the Vermont Arts Council to design an art sculpture with community input. The organization, in partnership with the Town of Ferrisburgh, plans to install the sculpture on the Town Green in front of the Union Meeting Hall in the near future.

According to Board Member Richard Morin “the grant is an opportunity to bring the community together to imagine not only what the art piece could be but have a larger conversation about the town’s newly designated Village Center. Art can be a powerful tool for people to stop and think what spaces can and should be,” said Morin. The mission of the non-profit, which was formed in early 2023, is to champion and celebrate the community of Ferrisburgh, Vermont. The non-profit also runs the Visit Ferrisburgh website.

Beginning in early 2024 the Friends of Ferrisburgh will host a number of community forums to gather input on the proposed design. The organization has partnered with Ferrisburgh artist Keith Wagner for this project. “I look forward to working with the community of passionate and committed people. Art integrates all of us and can further unify a Town, its identity and, in this case, sense of place” Wagner states. In addition to being a noted metal sculptor Wagner is an award-winning landscape architect who has been involved in redesigning iconic downtown areas, such as Burlington City Hall Park. “We are excited to bring his incredible wealth of knowledge, artistic abilities and love of Ferrisburgh to this project ” says Morin

“There is a lot of momentum into making the Town Center more vibrant, and this project will help to move those efforts forward,” states President Ashley LaFlam. In addition to the on-going efforts to restore the anchor of the Green, the Union Meeting Hall, the Town is moving forward with plans to install crosswalks and sidewalks in the center. Ferrisburgh was also recently granted a designated Village Center status, which will open up additional funding opportunities to support these ongoing efforts.

Once a design is finalized the organization plans to apply for additional designated state funding to fabricate and install the sculpture. Per LaFlam “ we are excited to take an underutilized space and make it a showpiece for our community.” This project is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts and in partnership with the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall and the Town of Ferrisburgh. Questions can be directed to [friendsofferrisburgh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofferrisburgh@gmail.com).