

October, 2014 - October 8 marked the first “**Up with Downtown**” session in which members brainstorm, discuss, and prioritize ideas for Canaan Village. Friends expect that the result of this process will provide direction for work in the future. Session planners are Barbara Bickel, Judith Kushner, and Joanna Carr.

- **The Farmers’ Market Subcommittee**, formed in 2012, reconvened to plan for the 2015 Market. Members Judith Kushner, Cindy Neily, Gary Wood, Peg Emslie, John and Joanna Carr improved the vendor application and ‘Market Rules and Information’ document. They also delineated Market Manager roles and responsibilities.

- **A beautiful, circa 1930’s village road sign**, discovered by Dale and Bobbie Barney when cleaning out a garage last summer, was entrusted to Friends of Canaan Village and the Town. Together, they commissioned Dimitri Gerakaris with its restoration.

November, 2014 - **Farmers’ Market Subcommittee** continued its work.

December, 2014 - **Christmas in Canaan**: A Santa’s Workshop, imagined by Head Elf Barbara Baker, was brought to life by elves Samantha Baker, Nancy Lynch, Carole Cushman, Becky Dow, Casey Shaw, Joanmarie Ellis, Tamara Fairbank, Bridget Cushman, and Joanna Carr. Highlights included portraits by elf Quick Draw, singing along with Elfin John, decorating gingerbread cookies, making Christmas cards, writing to Santa, and voting for your favorite gingerbread house. Visitors described the experience as magical.

January, 2015 - *Many Friends are now deep into hibernation but we’ve spotted a few moving about, albeit rather stiffly.*

- During the last 3 seasons, with Peg Emslie as Manager, the **Farmers’ Market** grew in number of vendors, number of customers, and in total sales. Peg was instrumental in establishing EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) and Veggie Bucks Programs. This season, due to health concerns, Peg resigned from this position. Thank you, Peg, for the countless hours you devoted to the Market during your stewardship. The Friends hired Lori Gowing, (former vendor, 2014 EBT Program Manager, and Friend) to manage the 2015 Market.

February, 2015 - *Some Friends are beginning to thaw out in order to prepare for:*

- **The David O. Cushman Memorial Winter Golf Tournament**: This uniquely Canaan event, headed by Robin Dow Parker and Gary Wood, drew close to 30 players. Alan Ricard, Carole Cushman, Ken Lary, Tamara Fairbank, Cindy Neily, and the Snowmobile Club got everything ready for play. Cindy, Judith Kushner, and Donna Just contributed home-made pies. Funding and prizes came from: Canaan Hardware, MTD, Canaan Village Pizza, Enfield Hardware, Granite Northland, Mickey’s, Barney Ins., Papa Z’s, Vanessa Stone Realty, Safflowers, Golden Comb, Movie Mart, Shaker Valley Auto, G.W. Plbg. & Htg., Fire Dept. Assoc., Dishin’ It Out, Hennessy Plbg. & Htg., Canaan Ambulance, ADW, Hurley Electric, Enfield Hairport Salon, Hair Salon of Canaan, T.M. Jellison, Lola Baldwin, Jan Forbush, and Thayer Payne.

After the Tournament, everyone headed to Canaan Village Pizza for the awards ceremony and, of course, pizza.

Kati Lary won the coveted Babcock Trophy; Allie Lary achieved the longest drive.

- Ta-dah! The new and more comprehensive edition of the **Canaan Directory** was published. Copies are available at the Town Office, the Library, Mascoma Savings Bank, Canaan Hardware, and other locations around town. Thanks to Mascoma Savings Bank for funding this Directory, to Reg Barney for coordinating the preliminary tasks, and to Chris Carr, Sharon Duffy, and Peg Emslie for helping Joanna put it all together.

March 2015 - *Friends are still mighty cold, but, thankfully, only a few appear to be frozen.*

- A **Market Committee** formed to link FOCV with the Market. Stella Butterfield, Chair, Judith Kushner, Recorder, Cindy Neily, John Carr, alternate, and Joanna Carr, ex-officio, meet when needed with Market Manager Lori Gowing.

- The **2nd Up with Downtown session** was held on Saturday, March 28. Participants split into 4 groups. In line with our mission, each group generated ideas for making Canaan, respectively, safer, more vital, more attractive, and more welcoming. Town Administrator Mike Samson participated. He updated us on various happenings, including the Town’s growing focus on economic development. Friends of Canaan Village shares ideas from the Up with Downtown series with the Town as we have many goals in common.

April, 2015 - At our monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we voted to send every Friend a **promotional Farmers’ Market postcard**, good for \$2 off a purchase from any vendor. Remember, you can’t buy happiness but you can buy local!

- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Up with Downtown session**, a discussion of an attractive Canaan Village, also took place at this meeting.

May, 2015 - May 2 - Once again, Reggie Barney coordinated the **Annual Depot Park Clean-up**. Reggie, Cindy and Elwin Neily, Spud Hammond, and Joanna Carr tidied things up fairly quickly. They pronounced Depot Park ready for

mowing, a service provided and paid for by FOCV. The group conversed around the picnic table, nibbling on Reggie's crullers and admiring a patch of bloodroot they had discovered in the woods (like last year – déjà vu?).

- Friends contributed \$1000 to the 2015 **Concerts on the Common**. A portion of this contribution, \$575, came from donations to FOCV in memory of Steven Therriault. The first concert, on July 7, was dedicated to Steven.

- **FOCV ice cream sundaes (by donation) at the Concerts:** Carole Cushman asked area stores to contribute ice cream and toppings. Carolyn Barney and Cindy Neily will join Carole in scooping ice cream, adding chocolate or butterscotch sauce, whipped cream, and a cherry.

- **Up with Downtown #4** - At the May 12 monthly meeting, members discussed ways to achieve a safe community.

- May 24, Sunday, 10 am to 1:00 pm, marked the opening of the **Farmers' Market** season. There will be many items worth heading downtown to purchase, including fresh vegetables, berries, and apples, honey, jams, relishes and pickles, baked goods, farm-raised chicken and rabbit meat, local eggs, goat milk and yogurt. Music has been booked for every Market! Come, enjoy the social atmosphere, admire the flowers, get a cup of coffee at the Market tent, and sit awhile with friends on one of the benches restored by Gary Wood with help from Aaron Allen and Reg Barney.

- **A blooming downtown** is right around the corner. Carole Cushman and Chris Dow, who agreed to take charge of the buckets on the Common, say they are planning a "thriller, filler, and spiller" effect, with tall spikey plants, geraniums, petunias, and trailing plants. Donna Just and Ruth Williams plant and tend the "Triangle". Spud Hammond handles the watering with his "new and improved" system. We are grateful to all these dedicated Friends.

June, 2015 - June 1: **2015 "So You Think You Know Canaan" Quiz** available at the Library.

- A **5<sup>th</sup> Up with Downtown** session - a welcoming Canaan - was on our June 9 monthly meeting agenda. We hope to wrap things up by session #112 (just kidding).

July, 2015 - "**Up with Downtown #6** focused on ways to increase vitality in the village. One topic that surfaced during discussion was turning the "Cozy Corner" into a Community Center.

- There was consensus among members that it was worthwhile to look into the possibility of a grant application to NH Division of Historical Resources for the National Registry of Historic Places. If an application were to be made and accepted, some buildings in the village would be eligible to gain historic designation and could be in a better position to receive federal money if damaged by flooding or other disasters. Judith Kushner spearheaded this effort and was assisted by Andrew Cushing of Grafton, a graduate student of historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania.

- Members voted to allocate **\$500 to Mascoma Community Healthcare**.

August, 2015 - **Winners of the Canaan Quiz** were notified at the end of Old Home Days weekend: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Amy Thurber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Melissa Allen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Lori Gowing, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, Anita Garland; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for Children, Larkin Jukosky.

- Members voted to spend up to \$500 to repair, and install brass plaques on, the two Senior Center benches.

- Neither the Selectboard nor the Friends will proceed with the downtown historic designation grant.

- Yet again, members weighed in on "**Up with Downtown**" possibilities.

September, 2015 - Members approved a \$300 expenditure for mowing a portion of the **Rail Trail in Canaan**.

- You may find this hard to believe but another "**Up with Downtown**" session was held at the monthly meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Members indicated their priorities from the list of activities which had been gradually whittled down over the past few months.

- The **historic village road sign**, restored last fall by Dimitri Gerakaris, will be installed on the Library corner. When we learn of its installation date, we will post it on our webpage: [www.canaannh.org](http://www.canaannh.org)

October, 2015 - Members have been busy preparing for the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting on October 2**. In fact, you are probably there at the Senior Center right now, sitting with friends and neighbors and reading this report. Good news – if you have not had a chance to be involved in "Up with Downtown", do not despair. Tonight, everyone will have an opportunity to provide input to help make the next twenty years for Friends of Canaan Village as productive as the first.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Carr, President  
September 27, 2015