



*Deep roots connecting families, friends, and neighbors
Across all borders and communities
Sharing, Engaging, Supporting*



2017 Year-End Report



To Members of the Greater Canaan Community:

We all know that shared value starts with the sharing of values, such as care, respect, integrity, kindness and maintaining a heart and soul connection between people. We believe that shared value is the foundation of community building.

It is in this spirit that the **Canaan Heart & Soul Team** would like to express their appreciation to all that have contributed to the Heart & Soul process.

The 2017 **Canaan Heart & Soul** journey was filled with events, activities, ideas and constructive action. Community engagement includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision, we have tried hard to identify the various components that make up our community and involve them in the Heart & Soul process.

As part of our commitment to Community engagement we have sought in the 2017 to promote sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

Canaan Heart & Soul has sought input from participants in designing how they participate and by providing participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

Throughout 2017, we've sought to uncover the community's "core values" in the belief that they define the expectations and aspirations of the community.

In this report you will find pictures that represent community events, people and places. We have provided a list of accomplishments, recognized the community organizations that we have reached out to in partnership.

Team members played an integral part in the Colebrook Chamber of Commerce *Economic Summit*, and the subsequent *Workforce Committee* that was formed to survey businesses on both sides of the Connecticut River. As part of this process, the Chamber has agreed to add committee news to the Chamber's newsletter. In addition, Team members have met with *Ethan Allen – Beecher Falls Division* regarding their support for vacant building rehabilitation efforts in Canaan.

At meetings leading up to Vermont's *Village Center Designation* status, businesses were invited to give their input to that process, as they have been invited to do so on other occasions. Team members have acted as ambassadors for Canaan and the Heart & Soul process as they travel around the state often prompting others to get involved in their communities.

Throughout the process, we have always moved forward seeking the input from other members of the community to help us be a part of a change. We believe that results are worth pursuing.

Be a part of the Heart & Soul creative excitement by getting involved in our **Team!**

Sincerely yours,

Canaan Heart & Soul Team



Some of Our Accomplishments

Canaan Destination Website (<http://canaanvt.com/>)

Canaan YouTube Site (*Chronicles of Canaan Vermont*)

Canaan. Naturally Connected. Facebook Page

Improvements to Canaan's *Fletcher Park*

Added Summer Events for the *Canaan Recreation Park*

Annual *Canaan Halloween Contest*

Canaan *Heart & Soul Float* in 'Stewartstown Day' Parade.

Enhanced the Sugar on Snow Event.

Developed a Comprehensive Network Analysis
(Data on workforce, school, civic groups, businesses, etc.)

Brought back *Town Meeting Dinners*

'*Village Destination Center Status*' for Canaan / Beecher Falls

Long-term project areas

Non-Motorized Recreation

Mission: To identify existing outdoor sports, such as Cross Country Skiing/Hiking/Biking and develop these potential opportunities.

Improve Gale Street

Mission: To improve the visualization of Gale Street in order to provide a welcoming, safe main street, resulting in increased pride by community members as well as help promote Canaan as a great place to visit and live.

Become a Cultural Destination for Writers and Artists

Mission: Capitalize on the natural beauty, peace and tranquility that Canaan has to offer and market Canaan as a destination for writers and artists to coalesce.

Brick And Mortar

Mission: To create a venue to enhance the Canaan area as a destination. There are many opportunities that already exist and not being utilized, they are as follows:

- An Outdoor Center
- A Welcome Center/Internet Cafe

Homeless Shelter

Mission: To have small shelters that are portable with a process to request room in private housing, or use some abandoned building that the town can buy to house people at a reduced cost for a night or two.

Short-term project areas

- ❖ Expand Community WiFi and Cellular Service
- ❖ Develop an Area Tourist Map to Bring in Cyclists/Hikers
 - ❖ Beautify Beecher Falls Park/Pioneer Trail
 - ❖ Foster More Events and Gatherings
- ❖ Encourage Businesses to Cross-Promote
 - ❖ Improve Welcome Signs in the Area
 - ❖ Create a Community Garden
 - ❖ Foster a Farmers Market
 - ❖ Utilize Students to Revamp Housing
- ❖ Increase Social Interaction at Town Meeting
- ❖ Activity Between-Men & Slow-Pitch Weekends
 - ❖ Expand the *Sugar Social*
- ❖ Establish a Ladies Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

Sponsors

- Tillotson Family Fund
- Orton Family Foundation
- Town of Canaan, Vermont

Partners

- Alice M. Ward Memorial Library
 - April's Maple
 - Canaan Historical Society
- Canaan Recreation Park Committee
 - Canaan School
 - Grace Community Church
 - Indian Stream Health Center
 - Jackson's Lodge
- Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)
- Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC)
 - Northland Restaurant and Lounge



THANK YOU!

Connectors

- American Legion Northland Post # 47
 - Averill Lake Association
 - Averill Mountain Trail Group
 - AWARE Vermont
 - B&B Tire
- Beecher Falls Volunteer Fire Department
 - Canaan Border Riders
 - Canaan Community Forest
 - Canaan Key Club
 - Canaan School Alumni
 - Canaan Schools Builder's Club
 - Canaan Selectboard
 - Canaan Women's Club
 - Canaan Zoning Committee
 - Connecticut River Artisan Group
 - Cunningham's Full Service Station
- D&P Specialty Shop and Consignment Shop
 - D.T.M. Small Engine Repair
 - Embroidery 4 Quilters
- Ethan Allen, Inc. – Beecher Falls Division
 - Green Hill Apartments
 - Hylie's Homemades
 - Le Rendezvous
 - Maurice's Motel
- North Country Chamber of Commerce
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)
- Northern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)
 - Queechee Farms
 - Solomon's Store
 - Spoke N' Wheel
- Stewartstown Day Core Group
 - The Northland Restaurant
 - The Spa Restaurant
- United States Customs and Border Protection
 - United States Border Patrol
 - Wayne's Lanes



Courtesy Charles Jordan
Colebrook Chronicle





What Canaan Heart & Soul Team members are saying:

"The Canaan Heart & Soul has given us a chance to bring people together to help build stronger, healthier and more economically vibrant communities. We seek the collective wisdom of all residents, including those whose voices are often missing. It is important to know what matters most to everyone." Diana

"It has been a pleasure to work with the Canaan Heart and Soul Team, it has and will bring new beginnings and wonderful things that can only add to the sense and pride of a small town community gained by the collaboration of the Canaan Heat and Soul Team members." - Sue

"Canaan's Heart & Soul has given the community focus on nurturing what already exists and complimenting new ideas for the North Country's future. With the dynamics of this multi-faceted gathering of involved and concerned citizens, the future looks brighter every day! The group is always looking for more members, ideas, and involvement to continue its endeavors positively." - Terrie

"When I was asked to be involved in the Heart and Soul process, I had just moved back to Canaan to caretake my aging parents - I felt I needed to be involved, as no matter where else I have lived, I grew up in Canaan, and it has always been Home to me. A community is only as strong as the strength of its people, and everyone has something to add to this strength-from the very youngest to the very oldest-together we can achieve what matters most." - Georgiana

"Heart and Soul has taught me again that we can do a lot more when we are united and not divided! We can't do this by ourselves but we can accomplish anything when we work together and with a goal in mind." Frankie

"The H & S process has given us a disciplined / organized approach to gathering information on what matters most to the town residents so we can use their input and focus our energy and strive to meet those objectives." Greg





Contact Information / Meeting Place

Town of Canaan, Vermont
PO Box 159
318 Christian Hill
Canaan, VT 05903
T: 802-266-3370
Email: cnaturallyc@gmail.com

2018 Heart & Soul Meeting Schedule

- January 11, 2018
- February 8, 2018
- March 8, 2018
- April 12, 2018
- May 10, 2018
- June 14, 2018
- July 12, 2018
- August 9, 2017
- September 13, 2018
- October 11, 2018
- November 8, 2018
- December 13, 2018

NOTE: All meetings are scheduled to be at the Canaan Town Offices from 5:30 - 6:30 PM

