

UVVB Meeting

Wednesday, 23 JUL 2025, 7 pm

What's going on this week in the UV

(find details at <https://uvriseup.org/>, an aggregate website where you can find information from 3 Rivers Indivisible, UV Rise Up and the UVVB):

- Thursday (tomorrow): 4-6pm, Lebanon Green: ADA Anniversary event
- Thursday (tomorrow): 7:30 pm, short zoom seminar on best practices for dealing with police
- Thursday (tomorrow): 7:30 PM Woodstock Town Hall: Special showing of SELMA
- Friday 25 JUL: Overpass visibility at 2 locations (4:15pm-6)
- Saturday 26 JUL: PRIDE festival and parade in WRJ beginning at 11:30 am

Minutes:

1. Quick introductions
2. Brief history of the Visibility Brigade (Katherine):
 - a. Originated in Paramus, NJ out of frustration over a lack of physical messaging about public concern regarding current events; we want to raise issues, make them visible, and amplify the message.
 - b. Grounded in the idea of social proof—it's comforting, motivating, and inspiring for people to be able to see that others feel the same way they do.
3. Collaboration with others in messaging (Erin):
 - a. Messaging and timing for overpass actions is often coordinated with other groups at the local, state and national level.
 - b. When we synchronize with others, it helps amplify the message.
 - c. Some groups we work with:
 - i. NH Bridge Brigade – all over NH
 - ii. I91 actions on fourth Fridays from upstate CT to Canada
 - iii. National Visibility Brigade
 - iv. We also collaborate with multiple groups around the UV—if you have connections in an area where you'd like to raise community awareness and invite action, we can help
 - v. UV RISE UP website—great place to see what's happening with several local groups, including ours—sign up forms for actions are posted there.
4. We are interested in expanding our visibility actions, engaging all age groups, and would love ideas and to help support your own pet projects:
 - a. Larger-than-life puppets made by Jill (a member of our group)
 - b. T-shirts (Joie does a great job with these—ideas? Reach out)
 - c. Chalk
 - d. Painted rocks
 - e. Community potluck

- f. Invisible paint (revealed when it gets wet)
- g. Projections (especially when days get shorter—start scouting for good locations)
- h. Guest speaker on a podcast
- i. Want to help make the letters and banners? Let us know!
- j. Other artsy ideas? Keep them coming!

5. Awareness top 10 list for staying safe at a visibility event:

The 10 things (or More) everyone should know...	
1	Listen to the instructions of the ANCHOR PERSON. They will explain the plan for deployment and safety roles.
2	Stay HYDRATED, bring water -- prepare for the weather - keep yourself safe.
3	Wear bright colors - dress for the occasion!
4	Stay on the sidewalk/out of pedestrians' way -- ESPECIALLY ON A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE WHEN HOLDING A FLAG
5	Please do not leave things IN the roadway/walkway
6	If passersby stop to chat, that's great, but don't be the first to engage (our signs promise we won't bother them)
7	We never meet aggression with anger-- walk away and let the anchor deal with any issues (Don't engage the haters!)
8	Follow the plan that's in place -- but most importantly keep yourself safe!
9	Leave NOTHING behind. See trash that isn't yours? Take it with you anyway!
10	Decompress - and reflect - provide feedback.
	Above all, this is a FUN TIME. Enjoy yourself!

6. Zoom training tomorrow:

We've seen a little escalation recently, both with Trump supporters and with police. Hartford police were asked by the VT Agency of Transportation to have us remove our signs from an overpass last week. A woman in CT was arrested for standing at an overpass; the ACLU is helping with her case. Hartford police have been great, and we've had no problem with NH police here. Timing seems right to build some confidence with a little training; this is the reason behind the zoom seminar tomorrow night on how best to deal with police, so we can continue to enjoy a cooperative relationship with local law enforcement.