

Friends of Doty/Rumney PTNO Meeting Minutes
August 13th, 2026, 5:30pm, Worcester Town Hall

Present: Kent, Lisa, Deb Bogart, Angie, Noah, Natasha

- Friends of Doty/Rumney PTNO Collaboration Possibilities
 - It makes sense for FOD and Rumney PTNO to collaborate, since both towns now have kids at both schools. It is also complicated, since both groups have worked hard to fundraise and have different financial realities, funding priorities, etc. That said, what are some ways we can collaborate?
 - It would be important to find out what the teachers/staff, community, and students want from a collaborative effort to support both schools.
 - Question: How can a collaborative effort between Rumney PTNO and FOD best support both schools? What do the community, staff, and students want from us? How would community members like to be involved? What would work best in terms of communication?
 - We can get feedback on these questions through tabling at upcoming events, meeting with Karoline, communicating with staff, asking staff to distribute a survey to students, and sending out a survey to both communities (FPF?).
 - Tabling at upcoming events
 - **Ice Cream Social:** Kent and Angie will coordinate a table at the Welcome Back Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 24th at 4pm. Kent will bring table. Noah will give Angie trifold of Doty photos. Kent will make Rumney trifold.
 - Forms to sign up for email list, volunteering, suggestion box, etc.
 - **U32 Open House:** Kent and possibly Lisa will coordinate a table at the U32 Open House on September 3rd at 6pm. Natasha will reach out to Lisa LaPlante about saying we'd like to table at U32 Open House. Set up in Atrium as parents come in. Then they start a mock schedule of the day. Breaks in between when folks can come back and converse with tablers. Lisa could possibly help out, at least in the beginning, and Kent will be there as well.
 - What questions do we need to talk to Karoline and teachers about?
 - How can FOD/Rumney PTNO best support students and staff?
 - What is the best way to communicate with staff? How do they want to get information from and to us that would be most streamlined for them?
 - Transportation? How to do after-school clubs for both schools? What is the feasibility of clubs that will be open for all ages? Can kids get kids to clubs at the other school, or should we have clubs at each school that are more grade-oriented?

- Could both groups collaborate in organizing a potluck/community gathering at both Open Houses so that families from both towns could get to know each other more?
 - Could Karoline include on the in-service agenda to talk about how FOD/Rumney could best support staff and how to best communicate?
 - Is there district money for field trips? If so, how much?
 - Survey kids - what would they want? Give them a few options...
 - Kent will reach out to Karoline about scheduling a meeting
- After-school clubs: Bec worked with U32 students to help run after-school programming. What's happening with that? **Natasha** will reach out to Bec. Ask Bec how we can support the work that she's doing?
- How shall we navigate finances now that both towns have students at both schools?
 - Would it be best to combine all funds or have two distinct accounts and a third joint account for fundraising going forward? Or for Rumney PTNO to deposit \$1500 into the FOD account so that there's an equal amount of money from both groups, and then that becomes the joint account? Or to split joint fundraising proceeds equally between the two groups and maintain separate accounts? Or for FOD to deposit \$1500 into the Rumney PTNO account and combine all finances, effectively becoming one organization, at least from a financial perspective?
 - Kent will talk with Rumney PTNO to see what they would like to do. Noah will communicate with FOD Finance Committee (Marianne and Caitlin).
- Event support - What events/student opportunities would the two groups like to support at both schools (e.g. Winter Wellness, Artist in Residence, field trips, after-school clubs, etc.)? Natasha brought up Starbase program and will do more research.
- Volunteering - How could both groups support/encourage volunteers for robust enrichment and after-school opportunities?
- Calendars - Coordinating fundraisers and events
- Linking websites - Rumney PTNO link on FOD website & vice versa?
- Kiln - Would it be helpful to collaborate on getting a working kiln at Doty, since the older children will be the ones most likely to use it? - Research kiln - Noah will check in with Deborah
- Fundraising events from Rumney historically: Meadow Farms (selling stuff), turkey raffle, pie breakfast and silent auction, Domino's cards, movie nights - one at each school; FOD - Pie Breakfast, Worcester Mud Season Variety Show concession stand, 4th of July 50/50 raffle.

- Discussion about prioritizing fundraising events that also build community, and using direct asks to raise larger amounts of money.
- Fundraising/community gathering ideas:
 - Theater performance
 - Concessions at U32 events
 - Movie nights (including outdoor movie night in Worcester pavilion in early fall)
 - Joint Pie Breakfast on Pie Day
 - Mud Season Variety Show (check in with Laura) - April
 - Halloween event? (Check with 6th graders) Maybe with dance?
 - Thanksgiving silent auction/raffle
- What do we want to fundraise money for?
 - Winter Wellness?
 - Artist in residence?
 - Kiln at Doty?
 - Clubs/enrichment activities?
 - Update from Natash
- Committee updates
 - Finance Committee
 - FOD currently has \$3,177 in bank account, \$1,675 of which is earmarked for ECO at Doty, so we have \$1,502 to distribute.
 - Fundraising
 - ECO Fundraising
 - We have reached our \$10,000 ECO at Doty fundraising goal!
 - Worcester Mud Season Variety Show concession stand, Pie Breakfast, and 4th of July 50/50 raffle were all quite successful financially. The Worcester Arts Festival and July 4th concession stands were not as successful financially, perhaps because of other vendors at those events.
 - Grants
 - Vermont Community Fund?
 - After-school grants from cannabis fund?
 - Middlesex Community Fund (Honi on their board?)
 - Direct asks to wealthy donors (e.g. Jeff Bezos' wife?)
 - Website/Communications
 - FOD website is live! <https://friendsofdotyptno.wixsite.com/doty>
 - The official FOD email address is: friendsofdotyptno@gmail.com. It is currently forwarded to Noah's gmail account.

Action items

- **Angie and Kent** will do ice cream social

- **Lisa and Kent** (and others?) will do U32 open house, **Natasha** will reach out to Lisa LaPlante about getting space
- **Noah and Kent** will meet with Karoline
- **Natasha** will research Starbase
- **Natasha** will reach out to Bec about spending time with group
- **Kent** will discuss financial structure with Rumney PTNO
- **Noah** will reach out to Deborah Bloom about kiln
- **Noah** will put out to group U32 concession stand volunteering

Next meeting: Tentatively Thursday, September 17th at 5:30pm, Worcester Town Hall