WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY TRUST VERMONT

Catalyst for a thriving future

Fall 2026

State of the Organization

Woodstock Community Trust is built on a simple but innovative idea: create a single organization that provides administrative and financial services and support to multiple volunteer-driven community groups so that they can focus more efficiently on their core missions. Today, Woodstock Community Trust continues to expand the number of Projects and our ability to serve a widening range of needs. This summer, we welcomed *Turntable Market* as our ninth Project. Located adjacent to East End Park, their mission is to provide an affordable venue for startup local food service entrepreneurs plus provide a much needed public restroom with community water service to the East End.

The Trust continues to spread the news about our Projects and work by hosting an information table at Market on The Green, East End Park's Community Day, and other public events. We have also worked to get more exposure in local print and have succeeded in appearing several times this year, including a couple of nice articles in Woodstock Magazine. See our News page for all coverage of our work in the community.



Woodstock Community Trust at Market on The Green June 2026

Executive Director Tesha Buss and President Pam Mathews have been working together for nearly a year now as the leaders of the Trust. Not only are they busy speaking with applicants about joining our Portfolio, they are the public face of the organization and function as captains of our ship. In that capacity, they launched a strategic planning process this fall to prepare the organization for its next chapter.

We continue to update and improve our website, so please visit it whether for information or to donate. In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy reading a brief update about each of our Projects and get involved, if you are not already.

Many Thanks

Donate Here

We thank you for your interest in our work and for your time and resources.
We are grateful for our generous and caring community. When you receive appeals from our projects, we hope one or several will align with your philanthropic priorities. We also appreciate those who support the Trust with unrestricted gifts, which help keep the fees the Projects pay for services low so that more of the money they raise can be used for their mission.

Project Updates

East End Park continues to draw enthusiastic audiences for Pentangle's weekly Music by the River summer series of live music.

This year's annual Community Celebration on Sunday, September 13 presented great music, food and beverage offerings, and community spirit. Also, *East End Park* welcomed Char Pizza, Ranch Camp, and Farmer and The Bell as neighbors this past year! See the coverage in the 9/16/26 Vermont Standard.

Inner Rhythms now has five trained instructors teaching social-emotional and mindfulness skills weekly in seven Upper Valley schools, including a local daycare. Our program now includes progress monitoring at each school, monthly instructor meetings, and family information sessions to ensure program awareness and success. Learn more

In three years, *Local Deeds* has protected 28 homes, creating a stable life for 40 workers and their families in our community. Visit our website to read stories of our homeowners and check out the winter edition of the Woodstock Magazine, which features *Local Deeds*.



Happy Local Deeds *homeowners told donors about how the program changed their lives. September 23, 2026 at Peacefield Farm*

Mountain Views Education Fund seeks to support teacher and student driven funding needs for the Mountain Views Supervisory Union school district beyond the items included in the district's annual budget. Our goal is to expand educational opportunities for students, teachers and the broader school communities.

Ottauquechee River Trail has created a new July 4th tradition in Woodstock—the Firecracker 5K Fun Walk/Run—and it was a great success! 240 people walked or ran on our beautiful trail, raising funds for the maintenance and improvement of the trail for an entire year. We are so grateful to the many people and organizations that contributed their funds, time, and talents to make the 2026 Firecracker 5K a success! See our Thank You in the 7/23/26 issue of The Vermont Standard.

Pride of Woodstock, VT presented the third annual Pride weekend this June. This year the weather cooperated and the Village thrummed with excitement for the High Heel Race, Craft Fair, Late Night DJ Dance, Tea Dance, and Drag Brunch.

Volunteer!

Spread the word

Do you know of anyone who has a project that could benefit the Woodstock community? Encourage them to consider joining our portfolio. They can learn more and apply on our website at woodstockcommunitytrust.org/join-our-portfolio. We love Woodstock and want to support anyone who also wants to ensure its thriving future.

The HUB is a compassionate and confidential safety net for neighbors struggling to make ends meet. Its assistance has resolved or eased the immediate crises of 82% of its applicants' households, averting the loss of housing for 9 of them. See the recent article in Woodstock Magazine about the program.



Donors to The HUB *heard from case advocates and Project leaders at an event on September 19, 2026, at the home of Martin and Karen Copenhaver.*

Turntable Market is Woodstock Community Trust's newest Project! Its goal is to provide an affordable venue for local food service entrepreneurs to market and sell directly to the Woodstock community and visitors. Learn more about how small or upstart chefs and food service entrepreneurs can develop their concept, grow their skills, customer following, and sales before potentially transitioning into a brick-and-mortar location.

Woodstock Village Conservancy is fundraising! The Selectboard and Village Trustees have given permission to raise up to $70K to plant trees in the downtown business district for our first initiative, Branch Out Woodstock.

In addition, the boards approved the first public feedback session on design and functional elements for the Rehabilitation of The Green initiative. On August 6, twenty-five people joined the team in a review of the history, condition, and ten identified elements, then offered their own ideas and feedback. The next step is for the Working Group to explore specific details and options for consideration.



Community members joined a conversation and brainstorming session at Town Hall to discuss design and functional elements for The Green on August 6, 2026.

Visit our webpage for more details about our initiatives and to donate.



Woodstock Community Trust at East End Park's Community Event September 13, 2026

Inside the Trust

Welcome



Claire Churchill moved to Woodstock with her family in 2023 and was elected to the Board January 2026. She manages a family foundation with a mission to progress humanity towards a more just, free, and sustainable world where the inherent dignity of individuals is protected and celebrated.



Lauren Thompson and her son David moved to Woodstock in 2017. She is Controller at the Woodstock Inn and Resort, a former board member of the Woodstock Youth Hockey Association, and a Woodstock Trustee of Public Funds. She was elected to the board in January 2026 and became Treasurer.

Board Changes

At the January 2026 board meeting, new officers were elected:

Board President. Pam Mathews
Vice President Emily Friedman
Secretary Wendy Spector
Treasurer Lauren Thompson

Staff Changes

Interim Executive Director Tesha Buss was hired as the permanent Executive Director in May 2026 after a year of excellent work as the Interim Executive Director.

Learn more about our team

Volunteer!

Gratitude

Woodstock Community Trust appreciates the contributions of Mariza McKee, who served as Trustee from 2023 to 2026. A Kansan by birth and recently from Chicago, Mariza is a partner with the Chicago office of Kutak Rock, LLP, a national law firm. During her tenure, she brought experience, insight, and valuable legal perspective and served on the Nominating and Governance Committee.

In Memorium



Trustee Nancy Winter passed away in March 2026. Nancy joined the board soon after *Woodstock Community Trust* was reactivated in 2017. Her extensive board experience guided the organization in many aspects of governance in those early years.

Nancy was an accomplished woman, who was active to the end on the board and with her many other responsibilities and pleasures. We are grateful that she shared so much of her time, energy, experience, and resources with *Woodstock Community Trust*.

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2026 Trustees

Claire Churchill
Jill Davies
Todd Erceg
Emily Friedman
Andrew Heyward
Pam Mathews
Caitlin McCurn
Greg Olmsted
Wendy Spector
Lauren Thompson
Sarah Glasser Tucker