

STAR OF HOPE UPDATE

The Star of Hope Foundation held its 3rd Community Meeting on November 19th. Here are some highlights:

Kris Davidson, Board member and island native, opened the meeting by sharing her thoughts about the relationship between the Star of Hope Foundation and the community.

...I have asked myself many times how this Foundation can move forward when the community has been so divided on the topic of Robert Indiana, the man who created the mission statement. Everyone in this room tonight is here for the same reason I am— we love and care about Vinalhaven. We may have different ideas of how to do things, but what we have in common is Vinalhaven, this place we call home. That's what unites us.

Christine Vincent, Project Director of The Aspen Institute Artist Endowed Foundation Initiative, provided us with important background information about the guidelines and rules **Artist Endowed Foundations** must follow in order to comply with state & federal regulations.

Larry Sterrs, Board Chair, answered questions and offered an update on the legal issues that so many people have asked about. Although the Foundation is not part of the litigation, it was instrumental along with the Attorney General in bringing all parties to mediation on November 25 & 26. More updates to follow.

Carole Martin, facilitator, led discussion about ways the Foundation might partner with local organizations. Here are a few quotes from those who attended the meeting:

The Star of Hope building has been out of circulation for the past 40 years. It needs to be an active part of Main Street again, not a fortress. Simply opening it up visually almost made me cry.

One thing that could be helpful would be artist studios with reasonable rents. They might also have some sort of community interaction agreement, so that people from the community can visit the space.

When I first came here 30 years ago, there was a VH Press. Many engravers were trained and there were scholarships offered to students. A printing workshop came about, which provided work for artists. It could be a center of excellence attracting artists from Maine and the U.S.

Additional information can be found on our website www.starofhopefoundation.org.

Our final community meeting to share Community Survey results will be held on **January 23, 2020**. More details to follow.

Thank you all for your interest and participation in this exciting process.

www.starofhopefoundation.org