

WORKING....
Johnson EATS Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2026
6:00 pm, Masonic Temple Basement (Temporary Library)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND - WE ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Meeting was open to [virtual attendance](#)

Board Members (P=Present; A=Absent)

Pam Jaspersohn	P	Kate Riley	A	Jasmine Yuris	P
Diane Lehouillier	P	Charlotte Roozekrans	P		
Gregor Novakowski	P	Jesse Whitworth	P		

Visitors present: Bill Jaspersohn, Liz Kauffman (VSC and PTO)

1. Meeting convened!
2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda? NO
3. Feb. Minutes approved (Jesse motioned, Dee seconded, all in favor)
4. JES Meal - reflections
 - a. Attendees very happy: EATS volunteers, parents, students, teachers, GMTC students, PTO
 - b. Emily and Dane - both amazing to work with!
 - c. Served ~175 portions, ~120 persons
 - d. Leftover soup taken home, delivered to food shelf, given away at store to Rory (=> new EATS member)
 - e. Supporting GMTC - student learning, advertising program, possible cafe
 - f. Great convergence of resources and good will, creating community
 - g. Joy played for 2 hours - awesome!
 - h. Minor glitch - used more plastic cutlery than we expected
 - i. Jasmine to email Dane - should we replace the school's silverware?
 - ii. If so, set up buying/pick up arrangement with Mike from general store
 - iii. Ask Lotte before making expenditures like this
 - i. Ask Emily about a thank you gift (kitchen tool?) for each GMTC student
5. Community Meals
 - a. Is this sustainable?
 - i. A lot of meeting time, but may not need to repeat preliminary meetings
 - ii. Set-up/clean-up takes time in new settings - could use more volunteers (e.g., PTO helpers) and in shifts, alleviated by repeat events,
 - b. Have we had any movement on other upcoming meals?
 - i. Food shelf meals for families at breaks - yes!

- ii. VSC - beautiful last May, especially with the storytelling, but May is crowded with board, but maybe bring in VTCC culinary program for a weekend instead, for now consider beginning of October good (two weeks without residents)
 - iii. JES -
 - 1. Possible events:
 - a. End of school year picnic with pizza oven (during day with parents - comes through at lunchtime - but could be a big group picnic maybe)?
 - b. Or beginning of year bbq?
 - c. Oven - Thursdays from July 4 to end of August)
 - d. Incorporate food from school garden into the start of year - can EATS organize garden care for them during the summer? Apprenticeships/deputize kids? Produce to food shelf or families or the pizza oven (e.g., basil)? Food shelf oversight? VSC residents or summer camp run by VSC (could be a unit)? JES outdoor classroom...
 - 2. Will email Dane to ask about the possibilities for meals and set up a meeting with him after the next EATS meeting to discuss garden and food shelf connections
 - 3. Great to connect school and community (put them into that space)
 - 4. JES rep: you're free to use kitchen for whatever you want to do
 - iv. GMTCC - how do involve them more -
 - 1. transportation to meal sites is a problem
 - 2. Emily willing to explore involving EATS volunteers in the kitchen
 - 3. Demos to JES kids? Mentoring between GMTCC and JES?
 - v. Blueberry festival Aug. 1 at Waterman's? with Morna Flom (Discover Johnson)
 - 1. Pies? Soda?
 - 2. Contact Kirsten, Emily, and Gary about gathering/gleaning blueberries for this
 - 3. Help find musicians?
 - vi. Potlucks (looking for rhythm/regularity)
 - 1. Town meeting at JES? Ask Dane....
 - 2. Include elders – e.g. Hardwick's bingos and burgers and JES pasta dinner on April 10 (will go in FPF)
 - 3. Dibden shows - incorporate food (ice cream?)
 - 4. Johnson "wedding" - dress up, dance, drunk speeches, "rededicate your vows"...
 - vii. New kitchen/dining space across river from VSC – TBD
6. Food Shelf Updates
- a. Recent ask for volunteer:
 - i. Market 32 weekly pick up Tues at 10AM bring it to food shelf, weigh and record it, put it away

- a. Ask Dorigen about: scheduling and posting training session at shelf to our group and on FPF
- b. Chili Cookoff reflections
 - i. Went great! Lots of chili, very crowded (200+), Doug Boardman played, Jackie won the best chili prize
 - ii. Food shelf raised - \$800+ (costs were \$100, donated by Diane)
 - iii. Need to work on serving utensils
 - iv. Friday or Saturday would be better (to get families with kids)
- 7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. \$1799 at present minus minor costs from JES meal
- 8. Grants (VCF, Discover Johnson, FAHC...) - need to bolster
 - a. Summer meal needs
 - b. Jasmine has submitted apps for:
 - i. VTElectric (???)
 - ii. VT Community Foundation (\$5000)
 - c. Other possibilities (e.g., Concept II) - need town board approval before applying for new ones - way to streamline?
 - i. Jesse will ask Paul how to streamline - e.g., we send a list of possibilities for umbrella approval - send others as we discover asking for veto/opt-out approach
 - d. Need to find a way to share the grant-writing work (Jasmine sharing the narratives she's written)
- 9. Other Business
 - a. Jesse bought a Johnson EATS domain (\$6/yr) so we can have an official free website and explore other social media – <https://townofjohnson.com/community-oven-committee/>
 - i. Will help to have online presence to help with grants, etc.
 - ii. Need to think about how we're doing media - need to start capturing photos/video, etc. in a more dedicated way
 - b. Dane asked about getting food to families from the food shelf (esp during break time) - finding a distribution system (e.g., PTO delivering to families) - need to involve Dorigen in the conversation
- 10. Next Meeting: April 16, 2026
- 11. Meeting adjourned