

Guide to Royalston NGOs (non-governmental organizations)

The organizations described below are community or non-profit groups rather than official town government committees. If you are interested in joining, supporting, learning more about, or donating to any of them, you can follow up with the listed contacts. Also check out the monthly Royalston Community Newsletter mailed to all households, where these groups often provide information about their doings.

Athol-Royalston Education Foundation

The nonprofit Athol-Royalston Education Foundation is a permanent fund to support innovative educational programs, partnerships and enrichment activities outside the funding normally provided in the school district's budget. All grants should further the strategic plan of the district; activities that connect the schools and the local community are a priority. Recent grants have provided students with exceptional opportunities in art, nature, local history, anti-bullying, college preparedness, theater, health, multiculturalism and community building. A-REF raises money through memberships, donations and special events.

Website: atholroyalstoneducationfoundation.org

Contact: EducationFoundationAR@gmail.com

Friends of the Phinehas Newton Library



The Friends of the Phinehas Newton Library is an active volunteer group that bolsters what the library has for borrowing: books, magazines, audio books, DVDs, music CDs, and computers, as well as an Orion telescope, state parks pass, ice cream makers, folding tables, and a digital projector. The Friends publish and distribute the monthly Royalston Community Newsletter and maintain the Little Free Library in the south village. They also organize yoga classes, the summer Royalston Shakespeare Company, special events for children, author and cultural talks, art shows at the library, and much more.

Website: royalstonlibrary.org/support.htm

Contact: RoyalstonLibrary@gmail.com

Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston

Founded in 1824, the Ladies Benevolent Society is the second-oldest society on record for continuous service in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It holds monthly meetings on topics of interest to members, raises funds for scholarships to Royalston students going on to college and in support of The Village School (see below), and offers refreshments during the town's annual Memorial Day commemoration and on other occasions. Its major fundraiser is the annual Drive-by Pie Sale, held before Thanksgiving.

Contact: RoyalstonLadiesB@outlook.com

Parent-School Groups

Each public elementary school in the district – Royalston Community School and Athol Community School – has a parent-teacher group that strives to enhance student learning and enrich student lives within the school. These groups also offer a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and voice their opinions about what is happening in their school. Special education has its own such group – AR-SEPAC, Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Its mission is to educate the community and advise the school district involving special education students aged 3-22, with the goal of improving educational access and quality of life.

Contact: ACES PTO – AcesPTO123@gmail.com

RCS PTG – RoyalstonCommunitySchoolPTG@gmail.com

AR-SEPAC – AtholRoyalstonSEPAC@gmail.com

Royalston Academy, Inc.

Royalston Academy was planned as a private school in Royalston in the 1960s, but never came to fruition. The funds that had been raised were instead used to establish an independent nonprofit organization to enhance educational and cultural experiences for the children and adults of Royalston.

Royalston Fire & EMS Association

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is a nonprofit that purchases equipment and provides comfort to members of the Royalston Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service and their families in case of need. To raise funds for these purposes, it holds an annual turkey raffle and chicken BBQ, plus the occasional pig roast; it also hosts a free Halloween party for Royalston children each year. Photos of actual missions, social events and purchases are shared on the association's Facebook page. To support this group, contact any member of the department.

Website: facebook.com/RoyalstonFireEMSAssociation/

Contact: RoyalstonFireEmsAssociation@gmail.com



Royalston South Village Revitalization

Royalston South Village Revitalization (RSVR) is a community group of residents from any part of Royalston whose aim is to make the south village a vibrant gathering place for the whole town while building community and having fun. One such gathering place is the gazebo the group planned, secured funding for, and built. The RSVR is applying for a grant for planning assistance to develop consensus of how the town wants to develop the south village. Meanwhile, various sub-committees work on river access and clean-up and helping the town Building Committee in exploring ways to re-purpose Whitney Hall.

Website: facebook.com/Welcome-to-the-Village-of-South-Royalston-109177197269651/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Contact: RoyalstonSouthVillage@yahoo.com

South Royalston School Reunion Association

The South Royalston School Reunion Association is a group comprised of anyone who ever taught, was taught or had children as students in the South Royalston Elementary School. The group gathers annually in October at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. Watch the Royalston Community Newsletter for announcements of the date.

The Village School

The Village School is an independent nature-based school in Royalston for preschool through Grade 6. The school believes in cultivating the development of the whole child through hands-on, practical learning. Thematic study is the major tool used to unite all areas of the curriculum and to fuel the child's deep interest in the learning process. Art, music, and story help create an emotional connection to the theme, simultaneously fanning children's creative fires and connecting them to nature and to universal values. The school also offers parent-child programs for parents of children 3 and under, and summer programs for children 4-9. The Village School is a nonprofit organization that raises funds through donations, an annual pancake breakfast and silent auction, and monthly coffee sales.

Website: villageschoolma.org

Contact: info@villageschoolma.org



Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston

The Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston is a nonprofit founded in 1943, with the goal of saving School House No. 1, on the Common. Toward this end, the Society has sought and continues to seek grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Royalston Community Preservation Fund, as well as sponsoring several fundraising events each year. It maintains the old school house as a museum, with extensive artifacts, photographs and documents. The society holds quarterly meetings, opens the museum to the public on summer Saturday mornings and for special occasions, and usually sponsors several events a year on topics of historical interest.

Website: royalstonhistorical.org

Contact: RoyalstonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Other Photos of Royalston NGO Activities



VI&HS: 250th Anniversary



F&EMS Assoc. Cook-Out at
South Village Revitalization Night Out



At The Village School



Friends of the Library
Ornament Workshop