

Press Release

Brattleboro Savings & Loan's Karen Fortier Graduates from Leadership Southeast Vermont Program

Brattleboro, Vermont - July 15, 2020 - Karen Fortier, the manager of Brattleboro Savings & Loan's Main Street branch, graduated from a rigorous 10-month program in collaboration and community impact from Leadership Southeast Vermont. The virtual commencement ceremony, where she and eleven other participants were celebrated for their work, was held on Thursday, June 25.

Leadership Southeast Vermont's community impact program brings together organizational leaders from around the area to discuss and strategize ways to grow the vitality of southeast Vermont's communities. The program has traditionally included monthly in-person meetings, but both the program and its participants shifted to a fully distant model due to coronavirus safety concerns. Seeing the situation as an opportunity, each participant was asked to complete an individual project that discussed ways the coronavirus has impacted their lives and then using that to reflect upon their concept of leadership. At the commencement, members of the Steering Committee, colleagues, family and friends listened as participants presented their projects, sharing their perspectives and creations. Through a series of art projects and essay questions, attendees expressed what they have learned from the program and in their life experiences. Art projects included a painting, photo collages, videos and a poem. Josh Dufresne, acting CEO of Springfield Medical Center, was keynote speaker.

"Banks play a vital role in growing the opportunity and vitality of local Vermont communities," said Theresa Masiello, Vice President and Senior Retail Officer of Brattleboro Savings & Loan. "As a certified B Corporation, we are proud to have had Karen representing our bank—and our community—at Leadership Southern Vermont. For BS&L, it's a direct result and extension of our longstanding commitment to social responsibility."

About Brattleboro Savings & Loan

Brattleboro Savings & Loan originally opened for business in 1912 as the Brattleboro Cooperative Savings & Loan Association. Today, as a state-chartered mutual savings bank,

BS&L is the only remaining bank headquartered in Windham County. The bank operates 4 banking offices; two, including its main office, in Brattleboro, one in Wilmington and a branch located in Bondville. BS&L also operates a mortgage lending office in West Dover. In addition to a full complement of business and consumer financial services, the bank offers investment advisory and wealth management services through its Park Place Financial Advisors division.

Additional information on BS&L is available at www.brattbank.com and www.bcorporation.net.

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