

One Londonderry Steering Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 3:00 pm at Neighborhood Connections and via zoom

Present: Patty Eisenhour, Martha Dale, Esther Fishman, Elsie Smith, Larry Gubb, MaryEllen Yankosky, and via zoom Gail Mann and Susan Collins

Community Center: MaryEllen Yankosky provided an overview of the plans for a Tri-Mountain Community Center. This center will service the nine towns in our mountain community. The vision for the center, developed in consultation with community partners, is to create a place that provides recreational, social and day care services. It will be funded exclusively through grants. Annual membership fees and rental income from like minded community organizations will make the center financially sustainable. MaryEllen is getting in kind support from Norwich University School of Engineering and Architecture (design services as a senior capstone project) Barnat Development (design oversight and permitting). Next steps include: securing 501c3 status, building local and regional partnerships, identifying funding sources, and identifying and purchasing a piece of property.

Community Fund for Londonderry: Susan Collins said that CFL was founded in December 2020 as an outgrowth of Project Londonderry, OL's predecessor. Its purpose is to support the projects and activities of OL as well as other community needs that fit within its mission. It administers its function through Grant Applications and Grant Administration Agreements acting as the fiscal agent for projects. CFL takes a 2% administration fee from all funds raised to cover the costs of its operations. CFL has sponsored four projects so far: Friends of Main Street (flower boxes) and town signs (both through independent fundraising campaigns); and Community x-mas tree and holiday lights, and the skating rink (through GoFundMe campaigns).

Susan Collins said CFL is still developing all its payment processes. In order to preserve its IRS status, the accountant has advised that all bills should come to CFL for payment; individuals should not purchase items on their own and seek reimbursement. CFL can open an account at local businesses and also has a debit card that can be used.

CFL applied to the town for ARPA funding to establish a housing trust; they applied for SVEDS recognition for the Londonderry Snowboard Museum concept; they have built a strong relationship with Vermont Community Foundation, BDCC and VCRD.

Londonderry Development Group: Gail Mann reported that there has been some interest in the Main Street Gas station property in conjunction with the Vermont Food Network. She also reported that the President of the Vermont Preservation Trust had a tour of Londonderry's old structures and volunteered to meet with the owner of the Mill about next steps for that property.

Gail also gave an update on the work of the water and wastewater committee. Small community systems for both the north and south villages are being explored. The drivers for action are 1) businesses who need to upgrade or expand their business model, 2) clean water, 3) residents who need to upgrade their systems, 4) affordable housing.

One Londonderry Annual Meeting: The group discussed ideas around an annual meeting to update the community about One Londonderry. Martha suggested that simple posters could be created by each subcommittee which states its goals and activities to date.. Esther suggested Music Monday at Pingree Park could be a good venue...especially if we provide refreshments. After Music Monday the posters could be displayed at the town office, the library, etc. Esther agreed to talk to Kelly Pajala, Parks Chair, about the idea.

Selectboard Presentation: MaryEllen will present the tri-mountain community center concept at the April 25 selectboard meeting.

One Londonderry Logo: Esther has begun design work on a logo for One Londonderry; she shared preliminary concepts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

The next meeting is on May 11, 3PM at Neighborhood Connections.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Smith