

One Londonderry Steering Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 3 PM at Neighborhood Connections

Present: Gail Mann, Susann Collins, Martha Dale, Elsie Smith, Esther Fishman, Patty Eisenhour

Esther called the meeting to order at 3:05.

Merge CFL and OL: Susan Collins said the Community Fund for Londonderry understood there were frustrations with the application process for CFL funding. She explained that IRS requirements for a fiscal agent require that a good paper trail exist. As fiscal agent, CFL is a granting authority; all donations the CFL receives are viewed as the property of CFL. Disbursements are at CFL's discretion. When CFL does a GoFundMe campaign on behalf of an OL community effort like the skating rink, these donations belong to CFL and CFL is required to use due diligence in their disposition. Susan also explained that the vision of CFL was to support community efforts beyond OL. Finally, should CFL and OL merge, the ease of steering committee operations would change because we would need to establish a board with officers, term limits, nominating committee, etc.

- The steering committee agreed by consensus to remain independent of CFL.
- CFL will see if the application can be streamlined and simplified and will establish disbursement protocols and guidelines.

Updates:

Community Center: Elsie said that due to an inappropriate email, the SB asked that the chair of the Community Center no longer liaise with the town. The chair has resigned her position and notified the many parties involved. The steering committee agreed that it would be a shame to see this project die and offered suggestions for how to move it forward.

Economic Vitality and Communications: No report

Housing: Patty said the selectboard approved awarding a contract to Camoin Associates for a housing needs assessment. The selectboard, based on a recommendation from the Planning Commission, will appoint a management team to help implement the needs assessment; it may be composed of PC members, housing team members and SB members; it will abide by open meeting rules.

Patty also reported that the Perry Lane project is moving forward. CFL and the Congregational Church are acting as fiscal agents for donations. Fundraising, including grant requests, is underway. They are looking for a treasurer for the project.

Main Street: No report

Recreation: Martha reported:

- The skating rink. They would like to put a shed at the rink for storage and for putting on skates in the winter; they are exploring options with Jamaica Cottage. They have talked to the zoning administrator who is determining if there are any ANR considerations. The rink is being relocated to the west next winter to avoid the septic field; Hunter and Chaves are assisting with this. The rink committee is also exploring lighting which will run from the pump shed. The committee is seeking donations of old skates which will be made available to skaters; and they have found a local skate sharpener. Precision Plumbing is building skating aids from pvc piping. Lastly they may undertake another small gofundme campaign to fund the improvements.
- The ways and trails group has answered all the questions posed by the Conservation Commission about the Shamberg property; next steps include a joint walk through of the property. The ways and trails group is also finalizing their map/brochure of the town's trails. Each trail on the map has a QR code which directs the user to a detailed trail map on the Trail Finder app. They need to find funding for the brochure/map.

Separately, the steering committee noted that they had learned that the proposed river-walk from the Prouty Property to North Derry was on hold. One of the property owners will not permit public access on their property. The volunteers working on this were hopeful of a resolution down the road.

Community Fund for Londonderry: Susan said that CFL had submitted a \$3000 grant to the Vermont Community Foundation to mount a snowboard exhibit at the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society, called the "Londonderry Snowboard Connection".

Londonderry Development Group: Gail said that her group has not made any headway with The Mill. The building is in very bad shape and the property owner will not budge on sales price. This group is also helping to facilitate the clean up and sale of Center Merrill's property including the gas station and opportunities to provide housing as part of the overall development of this property.

ARPA Funding: Esther reported that the Selectboard has not identified the parameters for the next round of ARPA funding. The deadline for applying for funds is April 1. The Community Fund for Londonderry should consider resubmitting a request for the establishment of a housing trust for Londonderry.

Selectboard Presentation on August 29: The selectboard requested an update on the community center at the next meeting. The housing group may also want to provide an update.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 3 PM at Neighborhood Connections.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie Smith