

## One Londonderry Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 3:30 PM via zoom

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Present: Esther Fishman, Elsie Smith, Patty Eisenhour, MaryEllen Yankosky, Martha Dale, Larry Gubb, Mimi Lines, Bruce Frauman, Stuart Osnow, and guests Marlene Boyaner, Eryn Ryan, and Heather Stephenson

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted. Esther noted that since the minutes were issued, the steering committee rescinded its decision to request funding from the town through the town warning.

### **Working Group Updates:**

Community Center: MaryEllen reported that the committee has finalized listing all the community assets which will drive the basic site plan, design and program for a community center. The committee plans to reach out incoming elected state officials to make them aware of the project. They also plan to do a focus group with members of the community to finalize their program ideas.

The committee has determined that the community center will need to be a not-for-profit with staff and executive director; the committee has thus begun to write a mission and vision statement and will begin the application process.

The committee is also starting to build a network of project funders including the USDA Of S. Vermont and BDCC.

Lastly MaryEllen reported that she has approached Norwich University Graduate Department of Engineering and Construction about this project becoming a capstone project for their seniors and met with a very favorable response. If approved, the seniors would start working on the design in the Fall of '22 and have a shovel ready project completed by the Fall of '23.

Housing: Patty said the committee developing a proposal to the Select Board for ARPA funding of a housing needs assessment. They hope to bring this to the January 24 Selectboard.

Patty has joined the steering committee that is developing a single-family affordable home on Hells Peak.

Lastly, she reported on the highly informative presentation that Hale Associates (a developer in Bennington who recently completed an 11 unite housing project) gave to her committee. Key takeaways included: 1) water and wastewater infrastructure is key; 2) Bennington has an Economic Development Fund; and 3) the town leaders need to be supportive of development.

Main Street: Larry reported that this committee is awaiting the results of the Main Street Master Plan. However, the River Walk subgroup has started to do some preliminary planning. The group is looking at two concepts: 1) the River Walk along our business district that is proposed in the Main Street Master Plan and 2) a walk along the river that connects the north and south villages. There is a lot of private property involved; the subgroup is working on developing a property owner approach to explain the concept and gauge support.

Economic Vitality: Stuart said he is developing an outline to get businesses involved in OL/Economic Vitality.

The Resource Guide that Mimi is developing will be a helpful tool for business development too. The resource guide really demonstrates how Londonderry is the commercial hub for the mountain towns.

Recreation: Martha reported that the skating rink is open, and people have been enjoying skating. The grand opening is rescheduled for January 22 at 2 PM. There is a core group of volunteers taking care of the rink. The press is interested in our rink, and she has an interview with GNAT and has been contacted by The Brattleboro Reformer and another paper.

The Ways and Trails Subcommittee is finalizing the brochure; the brochure will also include links to online resources; it is participating in the River Walk discussions; and it is exploring the possibility of creating trails on the town-owned Shamborg property. Martha is waiting to hear back from the Conservation Commission who would like have input into the project. A landowner approach concept is under development.

#### **Other Updates:**

Community Fund for Londonderry: Susan reported the fund has some limited funds to support its operating expenses. Discussions are underway to develop more robust fundraising strategies for 2022. CFL is exploring the legal implications of applying for a DBA One Londonderry designation to help reduce donor confusion.

Economic Development Training: Mimi reported that she and Marlene Boyaner have been working with Sara Lange (Southern Vermont Economy Project at BDCC) to develop a program to help educate our town officials and residents about the economic impact of development. The "Economic Development Story for Londonderry" would include an analysis that looks at current, historical and potential values on tax base, jobs, housing etc. The program will also include speakers from towns that have invested in themselves and towns that have not. The goal is to "socialize" the topic to help build community awareness, understanding and consensus.

#### **Google Workspace Training**

Heather led an introductory training session on google workspace. She suggested our steering committee begin by using Google Calendar so that we familiarize ourselves with all its capabilities.

- **To activate this, Steering Committee Members should email their committee lists to Heather at [onevoice@onelondonderry.org](mailto:onevoice@onelondonderry.org).**
- Elsie will send out a doodle poll to schedule a follow up training in 2-3 weeks.

Heather has agreed to continue the conversation about the next steps and plan for management of the OL website and possibly social media accounts

**Next Meeting: February 9, 3: 30 PM**