

One Londonderry Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 4 PM at Neighborhood Connections

Present: Mimi Lines, Bruce Frauman, Esther Fishman, Stuart Osnow, Patty Eisenhour, Susan Collins, MaryEllen Yankosky, Martha Dale, Elsie Smith, Gale Mann.

Esther called the meeting to order. With several new members in the group, we each introduced ourselves.

Steering Committee Purpose: Esther read the One Londonderry Mission statement developed in June. The group agreed the mission statement was still relevant. The steering committee had a broad ranging discussion about the role of One Londonderry. We are a citizen group, totally independent of the town, and advocate for the issues identified in our mission. Regular and ongoing communication with the Select Board and the community about our activities will build support and awareness but it takes time.

Committee Reports:

Main Street: Mimi Lines said this group is largely on hold until completion of the Main Street Study and Master Plan commissioned by the town. This group will encourage community participation in the public input meetings for the plan and will present their ideas and suggestions at these meetings as well.

Community Center: MaryEllen Yankosky said she is: 1) building a coalition of the human service organizations (Neighborhood Connections, The Collaborative, church leaders, etc.) to evaluate community needs and desires; 2) researching rural community, recreational and social service centers; 3) preparing a concept presentation for the Steering Committee by year end, to the coalition partners and town leadership in January, and a community presentation in February 2022.

Housing: Patty Eisenhour said her group is 1) looking into grant opportunities for a housing needs assessment; 2) attending lots of seminars and workshops on housing; 3) made a presentation to the Selectboard; 4) putting together a roadmap of the agencies and organizations that support housing; 5) plan to look at the Londonderry's draft zoning bylaws to make sure they encourage multiple housing opportunities; 6) working with USDA, Windham Windsor Housing Trust, and the second Congregational Church on a single family home project on Hells Peak. Patty noted that the greatest impediment to any housing project is water and waste water.

Recreation: Martha said this group has two major thrusts: Trails and Winter Festival. The trails effort has a short term goal to develop about 2 miles of walking/biking trails on the town-owned Shamburg property. Longer term, they are exploring how to create an East/West trail that connects Magic with trails in town. The trails group is also working on a map/brochure of Londonderry that will feature local trails and bike routes. The expected completion date is Spring. The budget, which needs to be funded is \$2000. The Winter Festival committee is putting all its energies into creating a 120x50 foot skating rink behind Jakes to open this winter. The estimated cost is \$5000. The Winter Festival is scheduled for March 5 and will include a bonfire at the rink. The tri-mountain challenge is back-burnered until next year to allow more time for concept development.

Community Fund for Londonderry: Susan Collins said CFL has been acting as the fiscal agent for activities in town, including the new fir tree at the Mountain Marketplace. A mail chimp fundraising appeal was undertaken; the results were lower than expected due to a possible technical glitch.

Economic Vitality: Gail Mann said this group has been engaged in supporting local businesses by getting grant information out to them. There is also an instagram campaign underway to promote local businesses. Stuart Osnow has

agreed to take over the leadership of this group and will convene a new committee that includes local business owners. Gail Mann said she also has been exploring alternative funding sources and uses for the properties for sale along Main Street. It was noted that Economic Vitality and Economic Development were separate but critically beneficial functions.

Holiday Decorations: Elsie reported that she had convened a meeting of the various people and groups responsible for lighting up the marketplace and Main Street for the holidays. This team would like to do a gofundme campaign after Halloween to raise \$1000 for lights. Elsie asked the Steering Committee for permission to make this a OL “project” so that it could be promoted through our face book page and website. The Steering Committee agreed.

ARPA Funding: The Selectboard is taking proposals for ARPA funds that are awarded to Londonderry. One Londonderry Groups are encouraged to submit proposals.

Communications: Elsie said that it would be beneficial to brand One Londonderry. She shared a poster template, based off the website, that we should use for all OL announcements. Steering Committee members are encouraged to sign their emails with their name and www.onelondonderry.org. The committee agreed that group head names and emails should be placed on the website. Esther and Bruce will work to start getting a monthly story about OL in the papers. Lastly, we will ask Larry Gubb’s bother-in-law for assistance with a branding campaign.

Selectboard Rotations: There will be no Selectboard report for the month of November.

Other Business:

- At Mimi’s suggestion, the group discussed sponsoring a workshop on economic development and tax implications for the town. Mimi volunteered to develop the idea further.
- The group discussed requesting town funding for OL administrative costs in the town warning and voted on at Town Meeting. It would give OL a public platform...and if approved would ratify our activities. We will investigate the process and time line for that.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 17 at 3:30** , probably at Neighborhood Connections.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,Elsie Smith