

One Londonderry Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 3:30 PM via Zoom

Present: MaryEllen Yankosky, Esther Fishman, Elsie Smith, Larry Gubb, Mimi Lines, Patty Eisenhaur, Bruce Frauman, Susan Collins, Stuart Osnow, and guests Marlene Boyaner and Heather Stephenson

Esther called the meeting to order at 3:35.

She announced that BDCC is offering a joint Planning Commission/One Londonderry board development training opportunity with a trainer from Pittsburgh. OL Members are invited to attend the 2/14 Planning Commission meeting to learn more. If approved, the training will take place in the afternoon on Saturday March 26.

Working Group Updates:

Main Streets: Larry said that Main Street meetings have been on hold during the Main Street Study and Master Plan process led by Stevens and Associates. The subgroups are continuing to explore ideas for: underground utility lines, the Shoe Barn wall, sidewalks, speed limit and streetscape furniture, and photo documentation of what makes our town unique. Mimi said that she and Larry recently sent a questionnaire to the group asking for reactions to the Main Street Master Plan presentation and suggestions for small projects that this group could start taking on. Mimi will share the questionnaire with the Steering Committee for their information. Mimi and Larry will present their findings at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Housing: Patty said the housing group has made a formal request of the Selectboard to use ARPA funds for a housing needs assessment. The housing group will also continue to explore grant opportunities for this study. She said her committee is attentive to converting large family homes into multifamily housing units and accessory dwellings as good options to boost Londonderry's housing stock. The challenge is how to take advantage of properties that come to market without a mechanism to attract developers. MaryEllen suggested that the Urban Land Institute is a good resource for information and speakers.

Economic Vitality and Communications: Marlene Boyaner reported on a EV&C meeting with Sarah Lange, Richard Amore, Gary Holloway and Mimi Lines about economic development and town revitalization. The key take-aways are: 1) Think big but start small - smaller initiatives build community interest and confidence; 2) Pop-ups - temporary installations to test an idea of improvement - help people visualize what a new idea can mean; 3) Do a 10 year plan, break it down into smaller projects, and prepare a yearly progress report for the town; 4) Instead of debating the tax impacts of revitalization, focus on the improved quality of life new vitality brings. Marlene recommends that committee look at these success stories for inspiration:

Success Stories: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/success-stories>
(sent to us from Richard Amore)

Cabot has done a lot of work around community and economic development over the past 5 years. Cabot used a consultant (Peter Fairweather, Fairweather Consulting) who spent a lot of time interviewing community members, business and property owners, town officials, organizations and engaged the community through community events to help inform the strategic plan. Here are links to the full report and a summary from their strategic plan below (sent to us from Sarah Lang, BDCC)

- <https://www.cabotvermont.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Executive-Summary.pdf>
- <https://cabotvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Revitalization-Report.pdf>

Mimi said she is working on bringing a panel of residents and town officials from the comparable rural VT towns of Burke, Cabot and Chester to have a conversation with Londonderry residents about their story, their community revitalization and economic development, and their successes and lessons learned. Her goal is to have a community event with food and games and encourage residents to explore how these lessons can benefit Londonderry.

Mimi reported that they have built a very strong communications team with expertise in websites, facebook, instagram, etc. The committee is developing a communications strategic plan to guide all OL communication efforts. She also is talking to Lauren Ingersoll about producing the Resource Guide which will need funding.

Stuart Osnow presented a draft proposal for “One Londonderry Business Alliance” to get businesses involved with and benefitting from One Londonderry. Tasks include inviting all businesses to join, creating OL decals for shop windows, offering on-line advertising, engaging businesses in discussion about town issues that impact them, and sharing problems and uniting in solutions. He asked the steering committee to review the plan and provide feedback between now and the March steering committee meeting.

Community Center: MaryEllen said the community center concept the community center workgroup is exploring will serve the surrounding mountain towns and could include the many services that are currently lacking: child care center, senior services, youth center, community support services, indoor recreation and more. Discussions suggesting a shared site with Housing have just begun with the Chair, Patty Eisenhauer

Other Business:

Google Workspace: Heather checked in with the committee to see if there were any questions regarding Google Workspace. She encouraged the committee to use the tools that work and ignore the others. She is available to help anyone who has questions or needs an additional tutorial.

Governance and Standing Rules: The committee had a general discussion about term limits for the leadership team. Generally volunteers typically may hold a leadership position for 3 years and renew for another 3. Some organizations have recruitment committees to identify new leadership. Right now the steering committee is still in its infancy, it is born of the community for the community, and we will recruit and replace as needed.

Esther proposed that the Steering Committee minutes be included with the Selectboard packets. MaryEllen suggested a synopsis of the meeting's actions be sent instead of the minutes. The consensus was to submit the minutes as approved by the Steering Committee to the Selectboard. Committee members are asked to review the minutes promptly so they can be posted in a timely fashion.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 3:30 PM either via zoom or in person (tbd).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Smith