

One Londonderry Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 3:00 PM at Neighborhood Connections and via zoom

Present:

MaryEllen Yankosky, Patty Eisenhaur, Susan Collins, Mimi Lines, Larry Gubb, Stuart Osnow, Esther Fishman, Elsie Smith and guest Heather Stephenson

Esther called the meeting to order at 3:05

Working Group Updates:

Economic Vitality and Communications

Heather Stephenson 1) asked if the Steering Committee would like to proceed with linking the OL google calendar to the website. Visitors to the site may gain access to the calendar by subscribing. Each committee will be responsible for listing their meetings and events. The steering committee agreed to proceed; Heather will provide a separate training on how to add to the calendar; 2) The communications committee plans to make our facebook and instagram presence more robust. Stuart said the communications governance is under development; the goal is for consistent, positive, apolitical messaging and information. Each working group is asked to submit two items (updates, photos, articles) per week for posting on social media. The communications committee is developing a form to help committees submit their posts; 3) Heather said the OL domain name expires on April 1 and needs to be renewed. Heather will get the invoice to Elsie who will process it through CFL for payment.

Mimi Lines said that work is proceeding on the community presentation on economic vitality in comparable towns. Chester, Cabot, Burke, and Peter Fairweather Consulting are willing to present case studies. The Steering Committee discussed various formats for the presentation, including billing it as an economic development summit moderated by our state representatives and supported by our local businesses. Committee members should send suggestions to Mimi.

Stuart Osnow reported that Business Alliance would like to start reaching out to businesses to engage them in conversations about events that affect them (waste water, by laws, main street master plan). Benefits of joining the alliance will include promotion on the OL website and a OL business alliance decal. Stuart will ask all OL committee members to reach out to the business owners they know. Next steps: Draft a letter to give to the business owners and design the window decal.

Community Center

Maryllen Yankosky said that her committee is working on 1) proposed site selection which needs to be completed by August so the Norwich University students can begin their work; 2) defining the space requirements for the program needs they have identified. MaryEllen

commented that Manchester's nay vote on the Field House sends a cautionary message to her committee. The steering committee reminded her that our residents need and want the programs that this Community Center would offer.

Housing

Patty Eisenhower said that the Housing Needs Assessment continues to be top priority; she is hopeful the town will fund it through ARPA. Esther added that the SB established a submission date of April 1st for ARPA fund requests. Patty said the Perry Lane Project (formerly the Hells Peak Road project) is moving along favorably. They are exploring doing a semi-modular build because of current supply and labor constraints. She requested if CFL might be able to process donations to the project. Lastly, the housing working group would like to promote two programs to the general public: 1) Grants to upgrade rental housing, and 2) grants for septic and wastewater remediation.

Main Streets

Larry Gubb and Mimi Llines said this committee is beginning to identify some small projects that the group could start working on, including "the wall" (at the old Shoe Barn property), solar speed limit signs, street furnishings, and description of Londonderry's historic properties.

Other Updates

Community Fund for Londonderry

CFL recently discussed the many grant opportunities that could be available to Londonderry and identified local organizations that might benefit from them.

Community Event/Annual Meeting - tabled to our April meeting.

Community Board Training with BDCC - interested committee members are encouraged to attend this meeting on March 26, 2-5 pm at Neighborhood Connections.

Next Meeting: April 13, 3 pm at Neighborhood Connections and via zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Elsie Smith