

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
DRAFT
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Weds., August 31, 2020 – 5:00 (Zoom Meeting)
Meeting held remotely via online video with no physical presence

Commission Members Attending: Sharon Crossman, Elsie Smith, Larry Gubb, Dick Dale, Mimi Lines, Andrew Rackear, Dwight Johnson

Others Attending: Ester Fishman, Cindy Gubb, Marge Fish, Lisa Sicotte, Pam Abraham, Susan Collins, Nicole Wingard

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:05. Sharon read the State mandated procedures and protocols and rules for a warned Remote Electronic Meeting and called the role of all attendees participating remotely. As required by law, the meeting was recorded using the Zoom recording feature. There were no members of the public in attendance.
2. Sharon outlined the meeting goals which included reports by the five “Project Londonderry” Committees, establish a Steering Committee, and talk about accomplishing something visible. The Recreation Working Group includes Larry Gubb, Elsie Smith, Marge Fish, Pam Abraham, Geoff Hathaway as a consultant, Gail Mann, and Martha Dale. They have met several times and are working to create a brochure. They have begun collecting data about existing walking and bike trails. They hope to put on an event to celebrate the multiple opportunities to enjoy walking and biking in town. Geoff Hathaway volunteered to offer several walking opportunities on Magic. The Economic Viability Committee includes Dwight Johnson, Andrew Rackear, Cindy Gubb, Geoff Hathaway, Susan Collins, Paul Abraham, Allison Cumming, and Ted Kennedy. The goal is to work with WRC, SEVID, Housing Trusts, Brattleboro Redevelopment, and the WRC, and others to develop a better environment for business success in town. They have begun to poll business leaders in town to discuss ideas, problems, and potential opportunities. They planned to meet on Tuesday by Zoom exploring issues like affordable housing, child care, supporting and attracting new business, and possible grant applications. The Main Street Group membership now includes Larry Gubb, Mimi Lines, Geoff Hathaway, Bobby Grey, Richard Phalen, Gail Mann. The project seeks to examine a vision for the town, possibly adding sidewalks, signs and banners, improving the look of Mill Pond, Williams Park, Store Fronts, and figuring out ways to be more welcoming to visitors. They have discussed using a Blue Hill Bay, Maine plaque idea and working closely with Rob Wilmington using the ideas generated by the North Bennington Revitalization group. The idea of getting a consultant and accountant along with establishing a 501 C-3 set was discussed at great length. The Communications Committee includes Elsie Smith, Lisa Alberti, Bruce Frauman, Richard Phelan, and Mimi Lines. The group hopes to gather stories about the town’s history and people in order to use them to create pride and develop who we are, “our heart soul.”. They hope to work with the LAHS, to develop an oral history and set of historical pictures so that the town’s rich history is preserved. The Branding group of Gail Mann, Bob Wells, Cindy Gubb, and Elsie; shared their preliminary report with their slogan: “Discover the magic of Londonderry: Explore, experience, enjoy.” They hope people will reach out to the community to test their ideas and achieve buy in.
Lisa pointed out that the pond at Magic freezes relatively early and might be a place to have a community event. Social distancing and its outdoor venue might be conducive to an early, achievable, visible event. Sharon began a discussion around a core steering group for “Project Londonderry.” Elsie Smith volunteered to act as the administrator and coordinator for the steering group, but for the short term, the group would be composed of the Project Chairs.
3. The next meeting of “the Project Londonderry” working group was set for Sept. 28 by Zoom at 5:00.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Dale