

Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Weds., July 1, 2020 – 9:30 (Zoom Meeting)
Meeting held remotely via online video with no physical presence

Commission Members Attending: Sharon Crossman, Elsie Smith, Larry Gubb, Dwight Johnson, Dick Dale, Mimi Lines. Andrew Rackear (attempted to join by phone). Others Attending: Cindy Gubb

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:34. Sharon read the State mandated procedures and protocols and rules for a warned remote 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. Additions to the Agenda: Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2020 was added to the agenda: Dick moved the approval of the minutes, Dwight seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Project Londonderry: Sharon asked the PC for a report on the assigned tasks from June 24th. Dick reported that the Beautification Committee has agreed to review the four signs entering town with respect to visibility, attractiveness, and appropriate design. They will propose a design and budget. Martha Dale stated that additional landscape might be difficult. Sharon suggested the possibility of adding notable local attraction to the signs with permissions from the business owners. An additional suggestion of flowering shrubs or trees rather than potted annuals. will be offered to the Beautification Committee.

Work has been done to refine the Business Guide and the “CoVid19 List” of current operating status of local businesses. Mimi will continue to refine both lists and make sure that they are appropriately distributed appropriately to town officials, Neighborhood Connections, business leaders, and the Working Group. Dwight and Andrew have met with the owners of Jake’s, The Corner and the Garden Market, and will soon meet with the New American Grill, Red Slate, Londonderry Hardware, Mike and Tammy’s/Maple Leaf Diner, Vermont Butcher and Wayne’s Auto to discuss how the town might be helpful in enabling them to survive the economic consequences of the mandated CoVid restrictions. Dwight reported that there is great concern about the future especially if there is a second wave in the fall. All report that they are thankful for some patronage, but it is not enough to sustain viability into the future. Several supported adding sidewalks, beautification efforts, more village housing options, financial capital to comply with flood regulations and purchase flood insurance, and investment in adding more local businesses to the mix. Sharon reported that Wayne’s and the Napa Store are for sale for \$750,000. There is current action in the State Legislature for some type of business assistance.

Elsie reported that there is a core group including Marge Fish working on the “Sunday Stroll.” They have explored several trails like Flood Brook, Memorial Park, the Library Trail, The Winhall Campground, and Pingree Park as an alternative venue to Thompsonburg Road. The event needs to be handicap accessible. Maps of trails in town might also be produced and the group will seek help from GNAT, business in town, and the Fire Departments. Parking issues need to be worked out.

Cindy reviewed her syntheses of the history, mission, vision, and purpose of “Project Londonderry,” a list of four areas of focus for the working group, and some issues that each task force needs to address, like funding sources. The PC liked the document as basis and guidance for working groups to get projects underway. Possible interested group members/ leaders were identified and will be approached. It was agreed that each group need to have at least one Planning Committee member.

Sharon reported conversation with Gail Mann and Susan Collins regarding the need to develop a visual conception of our future main street and landscaping, so that citizens can review and input their ideas. There are a couple of landscape architects here temporarily who may be interested in such a project.

In preparation for the next working group meetings, Cindy's work template and expectations of launching the four-task force will be Emailed to each participant. Possible Chairs will be identified.

4. Brandy Saxton has delivered her proposed explanations and discussion of key points about the proposed Bylaw revision. Several PC members found her proposed videos to be excellent and a good place to start to get the public's input. If Brandy is available on July 13, the discussion about next steps will continue as the second agenda item for the regular Planning Commission monthly meeting.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2020 at 5:00 by Zoom to continue the discussion around "Project Londonderry" for forty-five minutes or so followed by a brief discussion with Brandy about the Bylaws for a half hour or so.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Dale