

Town of Londonderry, Vermont

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Mon. May 4, 2021 – 1:00 (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

Others: Shane O'Keefe, Esther Fishman, Adam Grinold (BDCC), Sarah Lang (SEVEDS, BDCC), Patty Eisenhower (Chair of One Londonderry Housing Group)

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:04.
2. Adam reported extensively on the opportunities and funds to be given to both towns directly and distributed through the County Grants by the population of the towns. (ARPA) Londonderry will get the funds with few strings attached by the Federal in the American Rescue Plan Act giving towns a real opportunity to realize infrastructural change, economic development opportunities, and any other long deferred improvement to the infrastructure or economic initiatives deferred by other pressing town needs and a lack of necessary capital. Kelly predicts \$300,000. The funds will likely be distributed by this summer along with State funds and other more closely linked and restricted Federal Funds. He suggested working with the WRC and the Selectboard to develop an effective plan to spend the money over the next three years. These funds could be used to match grant funds already in process, (Main Street Master Plan, One Londonderry initiatives like sidewalks and pathways, the proposals from the water/waste water study underway, the Village Designation needing to be renewed, and the Dam Study authorized by the Town Meeting).
3. The Sarah reported on many resources and educational opportunities afforded by the SEVEDS' initiatives. She discussed her four-part series for training people interested and responsible for Project Development. (Project definition, Project Planning, Project Financing, and Grant Writing.) Both she and Adam offered a list of funding and planning resources and business entrepreneurial initiatives being engaged by the WRC, SEVEDS, and the newly reorganized BDCC. Shane will list them all in a follow-up Email as they were listed in the chat function of the Zoom Meeting, which was also recorded. The whole discussion prompted many questions and caused all in attendance to recognize that there are many opportunities and resources available to the town. Sarah summarized opportunities to get on mailing lists from SEVEDS and the BDCC and upcoming sessions focused on economic development with very well-connected experts as Keynote speakers available because the meetings will be done by Zoom.
4. There was a discussion about the time, date, and agenda for the regular Planning Committee meeting now scheduled for 5:00 on March 10. Before the meeting, Sharon will again reach out to Brandy Saxon to finally get a final draft of the proposed Zoning Bylaws and other supporting materials which she promised to be delivered last January.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Dale