

Town of Londonderry, Vermont

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Weds., July 17, 2019

100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155

Attending: Sharon Crossman, Elsie Smith, Mimi Lines, Larry Gubb, Dick Dale, Dwight Johnson, Gail Mann, Shane O'Keefe

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:00
2. There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda
3. Minutes of June 10, 2019 and July 8, 2019 approved.
4. The March 1998 report on "Londonderry Downtown Revitalization Project" and the 1992 report, "Londonderry, Vermont, An Economic Appraisal" were both reviewed. Both reports suggested that many of the dreams and issues around economic viability and revitalization continue today. Both reports were based on observations by well-connected and committed citizens at the time. The Commission concluded that well-connected and committed leadership was essential for the success of any effort to promote any revitalization effort along with the active support of the Select Board. Sources of Capital are also essential. The success of Brattleboro, Burlington, Bellows Falls, and Bennington depended on a well-defined mission, access to enough capital, and very effective leadership. It was noted that the active engagement and encouragement of the community for any revitalization or new economic initiative. It was concluded that next steps moving forward include an invitation to the leadership of "Vermont Downtown" to come to the next special meeting of the Planning Commission along with several other experts in the field suggested by Vermont Downtown, such as "Smart Growth Vermont". Sharon agreed to set up the next special meeting of the PC at their convenience. Dwight agreed to talk at the next Select Board to keep them informed of the Planning Commissions efforts. The Commission agreed to continue to identify key groups and business leaders to solicit for their visions for the future of Londonderry. Elsie agreed to help create a business questionnaire. Larry agreed to expand upon possible people who might be interested in serving on Committee to reprise a mission, vision, and practical programs that resulted in the 1998 and 1992 reports. Gail agreed to continue to research other sources of expertise on village revitalization. An agenda item for the next special meeting will be to develop a list of useful questions as the Planning Commission reaches out the community for their thoughts concerning the future of Londonderry.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43.
6. The next meeting will be the Special Meeting at 5:30 on July 17, 2019 with the next regular meeting at 5:00 on August 12, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Dale

Next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be at 5:00, Monday August 12, 2012