

Town of Londonderry, Vermont

**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Mon. Feb. 8, 2021 – 5:30 (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: Shane O’Keefe, Will Goodwin

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM. Sharon read the State mandated procedures, protocols and rules for a warned Remote Electronic Meeting and called the role of all attendees participating remotely. There were no members of the public in attendance.
2. Minutes of the Joint Selectboard—PC meeting of Jan 10, 2021 were approved (Dick Moved, Sharon Seconded). Within paragraph 5, the spelling of Bruhn and Genser were corrected.
3. Sharon announced that the Preservation Trust of VT Grant request did not get approved. Shane stated that the Bond issue to repair the Town Office was postponed by the Selectboard in December, waiting for better economic conditions sometime in the future. Shane will continue to assess short- and long-term capital improvements for all Town owned buildings. He was advised that detailed assessments recommended by Chris Cole for the Town Hall have already been completed. It is possible that a “Better Places” grant might be a source of needed funds.
4. Sharon reviewed status of the Zoning Bylaws. She reported on a meeting with Brandy Saxton, Will Goodwin, Shane O’Keefe and Sharon during which DRB member Paul Abraham’s list of points needing clarification, Shane’s concerns, Will’s questions, and the Jamaica Cottage Shop /Big Rock written comments were shared. Brandy expects to give Londonderry a final amended copy of the Bylaws early in March, which will then go to the Town Attorney for review and comment. Mimi has finalized a draft of the post card to be sent to all residents, announcing the status of the new bylaw and inviting questions and comments. Jeff Nugent of the WRC will be hired to produce a finished version of the zoning maps as those currently in the Zoning document are preliminary.
5. Larry reported on a lengthy meeting with the Water/Wastewater engineering consultant. Several sites were identified as possible places to locate a small waste system of about 6500 gallons serving about 10-15 families and covering about two acres. Pingree Park was formally removed by the Selectboard from consideration. Properties with identified potentially suitable soils include the Prouty land, near the Town Office Building and several private properties within the villages. Each has limitations. The WW study group will continue discussion and findings in the next two weeks.
6. The Master Plan RFP for the consultant will be finalized within the next two weeks. Sharon will summarize from the Municipal Planning Grant application the scope of service and other applicable terms of the Grant for Shane who will prepare the document.
7. Each Chair of each Committee of Project Londonderry offer a quick report, but everyone was most impressed with Wednesday’s Londonderry One meeting. There was obvious enthusiasm, great ideas were generated, experts suggested that what has been done already is very good, and that Londonderry is really poised to embrace some important, citizen supported improvements. As always, effective and accurate communication with everyone is essential to maintain community buy-in and support. There was an extensive discussion on open meeting laws and the degree of independence from the Planning Commission the Project Londonderry Committees might have if separated from the PC. Deciding the appropriate working structure going forward is a work in progress and the hope is that some direction will be the result of the VCRD meetings.

8. The status of various grants, both in process and awarded, were reviewed. Sharon is hoping for coordination with the Parks Board to jointly apply for grants for lighting and other improvements for Williams Park and the 2 former Genser properties now owned by the Town and incorporated into the Park. Mimi reviewed several promising grants for Water Conservation, The Trust for Public Lands, The VORAC recreation grants and several others.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Dale