

# Londonderry Arts Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 01/08/2026

Meeting Start: 7:01 PM

Meeting End (motion/second): 8:34 Stephen/Steph

Minutes recorded by: Stephen Lee

## ***In attendance (at Town Hall Moose Hill Council Chambers):***

Officers: Larry Casey (Chairperson), Stephanie Miville (Vice Chairperson), Stephanie Miville (Acting Treasurer), Stephen Lee (Secretary)

Voting members: Cit Waters, Dasha Bulatova, Greg Descoteaux, Karen Giguere, Paige Williams

Volunteers: ~~Richard Flyer~~, Julie Lee, Cyndi Peterson

Visitors: ~~Fed Combes~~ (TC Liaison), Kirsten Hildonen (Administrative Support Coordinator), Shaun Mulholland (Town Manager), Paul Swindlehurst, Elaine Barrette

## **LAC WORKING GROUPS**

**Youth Art Contest** (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)

**Literary Magazine** (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey)

**Concerts on the Common** (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)

**Arts Café** (Karen Giguere, Larry Casey, Greg Descoteaux)

*Note: Notes from previous meetings, left in for reference, are in italics.*

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**Opening Remarks / Welcome New Volunteers (Larry Casey)**

- Welcome!

**Andy Mack tree project (Larry Casey, Richard Flyer)**

- No update.

**Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Paige and Dasha will get involved with this project. Larry will organize a meeting with Richard and some of Andy's family.*
- *Greg discussed having photos taken of the trees in the fall. Stephen will help with this.*

**Art in Action / Art on the Common (Cit Waters, Karen Giguere)**

- No update.

**Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Cit wants to do this on August 30 or September 13.*
- *Informal event this year. Think of it as an "open air studio" (thanks, Larry!) event this year. People could come and watch the artists (ala Art in Action). Could they sell their artwork if they want to??*
- *More like an artist social/networking event.*
- *More formal and involving event next year.*
- *Karen and Greg will help organize this event.*
- *Ask for feedback about this idea from artists using our Mail Chimp email list. Cit will write up something for Dasha to add to an email that she will be sending out soon.*
- *Talk about this at the June meeting.*

**Arts Café (Karen Giguere, Larry Casey, Greg Descoteaux)**

- Karen – will meet with Dasha and Greg to discuss how they might incorporate Arts Cafe with Wild Apples events. Not doing a lot of work on Arts Cafe right now, though.

**Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *At the meeting we held at The Baldwin on November 19, Karen asked Paul Swindlehurst about holding the Arts Café at The Baldwin. He said that the management doesn't want outside people to come to their facilities. It is possible that they would send a bus of folks to the event, wherever we hold it, though.*
- *The "new" O'Neil Theaters has a community room. Larry will get a contact through the Town to see if we could use it for the Arts Café, etc. Cyndi asked if they have any art in the facility.*
- *Steph said we should see if there is space at Sunnycrest for Arts Café. Steph will find out.*

- *Karen – discouraged with attendance.*
- *Location is a problem.*
- *People didn't drink much coffee. Try to come up with a different "theme".*
- *Artists like the format of the event but need more foot traffic.*
- *Karen would like to re-evaluate the event. Maybe combine it with the Wild Apples launch party. Include music and poetry reading. Maybe not a selling event for the artists, just an exhibit. An "LAC Expo"?*
- *Combine with Art in Action?*
- *Hold the event on the Common? At The Baldwin?*

### **Concerts on the Common (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)**

- Still working on a contract template to use for bands. Kirsten said that she will send it back to Stephen and Paige for one last review.
- Kirsten will set up a Doc-u-sign account for Stephen so that he can send band contracts directly to Shaun for him to sign.
- Three bands are waiting for contracts.
- In December we received the first sponsorship for 2026. It is at the Gold level.
- Larry sent out New Year's cards to our existing sponsors.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Larry, Stephen and Julie got together to brainstorm fundraising ideas for 2026. It was very productive. We discussed updating our sponsorship tiers, and how we can add value to them for a sponsor. Also, Larry is updating our mass mailing list for this year's fundraising mailing.*
- *Larry asked for agreement to reimburse him for sending out Thanksgiving postcards for COTC using a service he subscribes to. All approved.*
- *We voted Stephen, Larry and Steph to be the "working group" for this activity. We voted to give **them authority to make all decisions relevant to this activity.***

### **Creative Ground (Larry Casey, Dasha Bulatova)**

- No update.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Larry discussed using this group to make connections with local artists. It is a non-profit organization to link arts groups with artists.*
- *Artists can share their work and activities on the website.*
- *There are thousands of artists in the database. You can filter by location and send messages to the filtered group.*
- *We can use this connect with local artists.*
- *Larry registered LAC with the organization.*

### **Creative Network Night (Paige Williams)**

- No update.

### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Paige would like to reach out to Londonderry businesses through the Chamber of Commerce and set up a quarterly networking event for creative professionals and enthusiasts in the area. The event would be open to all but would be focused on Londonderry citizens who work in any creative or artistic venture. This would also be open to hobbyists or others who want to connect with the arts community in Londonderry. This event would be more of a professional networking focus, rather than a performance/exhibition of art.*
- *Paige believes that this would strengthen the community by creating artistic and professional connections that will enrich the Londonderry arts community. Further, this would ideally be a free event for LAC, as we would leverage local businesses to help us put these events on. A business sponsoring & hosting an LAC Arts Networking Night would foster goodwill in the community, get the business's name out, and help connect the business to artists in the area for consulting/professional reasons.*
- *Paige brought a well-thought-out proposal to the meeting and gave everyone a copy.*
- *The Council agrees and supports this idea. Targeting September for the first event. Paige will organize this with support from other LAC members.*

### **LAC Blog / Social Media (Dasha Bulatova, Steph Miville)**

- No update.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Steph and Jan will send ideas to Dasha.*

### **LAC Financial Report (Steph Miville, Stephen Lee)**

- Stephen shared the LAC Google Drive with all of the LAC members.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Town has put \$17,000 in the budget for LAC per Kirsten. This will make up for the loss of the NH Arts grant that the State has eliminated.*
- *Steph suggested that we revisit how we proportion the Town funds between the arts and concerts. We currently have 15% go to the arts, but that may be more than what is needed. We will discuss this at a later date.*

### **Library Artists (Karen Giguere)**

- No update.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Cyndi will help get kids from the local schools involved. It could be a great opportunity for them.*

- *Paige looked at the workflow document and has ideas for streamlining/downsizing instead of removing the program.*
- *Dasha/Paige/Karen/Cyndi will meet to reimagine the program and then bring it to the library.*

### **Membership/Officers (Larry Casey)**

- We voted for new officers for 2026. Everyone agreed that we already have the best officers...ever. 😊 No changes from 2025. Motion by Greg, seconded by Dasha. **APPROVED**

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *We voted to appoint Steph to be the acting Treasurer. Larry/Karen made the motion/second to do this. **APPROVED***
- *Larry asked us to try to get more non-voting alternate members of the committee.*
- *We could do a recruiting event. Larry will work on this.*

### **Old Home Day (Larry Casey, Steph Miville)**

- No update.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *None.*

### **Plein Air Artist Event (Larry Casey, Steph Miville)**

- No update.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Larry and Steph met with John Shevenell from NHAA (NH Artists Association) to organize a plein air event in Londonderry.*
- *Held on Wednesday May 15, 2024.*
- *Larry is hoping that this will be an annual event for us.*

### **Senior Center / For the Love of Music (Greg Descoteaux , Larry Casey)**

- Greg – all set for the next event.
- Next event is Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Greg is interested in finding a way to move the music amplification from musician to musician to amplify each person. Cyndi suggested the cable access program to see if they have equipment they can suggest. Steph suggests the high school and that Greg connect with Serge Beaulieu (Schools Music Director). Greg will look into it.*
- *Greg will send out a reminder to the musicians 1-2 weeks before the date.*
- *This event is held quarterly.*

## Strategic Plan / Goal Setting Initiative – Town of Londonderry (Committee)

- Shaun Mullholland (Town Manager) and Kirsten Hildonen (Administrative Support Coordinator) attended the meeting to discuss the Town’s Strategic Plan / Goal Setting initiative.
- We should identify tangible things that we are going to accomplish in the coming year.
- The Master Plan is important – and it is a living and breathing document. But it doesn’t manage the same issues that the Strategic Plan document does.
- Shaun - Strategic Plan is a one-year plan with a two-year vision. It is updated every year before the budget process starts.
- Shaun is looking for the goals that we want to do the fiscal 2027 year.
- What happens if we do not meet a goal?
  - Shaun - Make sure the goals are not too difficult to achieve. What can we do with the resources that we have? We may need to think about setting goals that take steps toward a larger, longer term goal.
- Shaun and Kirsten explained the details of creating the Strategic Plan.
- Kirsten will send out a worksheet for us to use to develop our goals. She will come back in February to answer questions, etc. to see how we are doing. We should have the worksheet filled out for that meeting. Come with broad ideas/objectives. Kirsten will come back in March to help continue the development of the plan.
- Include what we are already doing in our goals. That will highlight what we are doing to the rest of the Town. To some degree, this is to let others in the town know what we do.
- Do not put in items that will be completed by July or so. Focus on FY2027 (July 2026 – June 2027).
- Steph – we should have one item that is a “new” aspirational goal, not just what we are already doing.
- We went around the table asking for initial thoughts for goals:
  - Steph - Bring back Art on the Common. Getting/finding a public space/facility for art.
  - Cyndi – more outreach to students in the schools.
  - Cit – have a centralized location for common activities. Be able to invite performing arts. Reach out to a theatrical group she just heard about.
  - Elaine – a facility for the arts.
  - Karen – create an inventory of facility locations that could be used for an arts event.
  - Stephen – facility for arts.
  - Greg – facility for arts. Outreach to schools to involve students in the arts.
  - Dasha – publish the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Wild Apples and have a launch party. Create a logo for the LAC.
- Steph - Goal will be to discuss these ideas next meeting. Should we get the “stretch” goal down to one to present – or more? Discuss how many goals we want to present next month and what they are.

### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Larry discussed the survey that the Town sent out last summer asking residents to give input on the Master Plan. Larry was pleased to hear the points residents want the Arts Council to continue to promote:*
  - *Supporting Apple Way. The Andy Mack tree project feeds into this.*
  - *Arts Council events.*
  - *Promotion and expansion of public art installations.*
  - *Expansion of youth focused art activities.*
    - *Cyndi talked about related issues that she, Cit and Karen discussed in an offline meeting.*

- *Maybe talk with the guidance counselors and art teachers about getting more kids involved and finding out what classes/programs the school is offering to kids.*
- ***Dasha suggested creating an LAC mentorship program.*** *They would get credit for helping with the LAC. EVERYONE loved this idea. We need someone to drive this on the LAC. Paige offered to help get the framework together for this with someone, as she managed interns at a previous job. Paige said the Town will most likely require that vet our members to work with younger people. Does the Town have a process to do this?*

### **Wild Apples Literary Journal (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey)**

- Dasha has 38 accepted submissions, about 20 authors. Good mix of types of submission mediums. A mix of repeat and new authors.
- She will start thinking about organizing the reception in a couple months.
- We received an online order for the 2025 journal. Dasha will handle delivering it. We have to verify that the payment went to the Town.

#### ***Notes from Previous Meetings***

- *Dasha asked Steph to see if Sunnycrest will carry Wild Apples in their store. Would Mack's also carry WA? Larry will look into this...or else!! 😊 We have about 25-30 copies left to sell.*
- *Karen will get Dasha info on putting up a promotional cable access slide.*
- *Steph said that she will help document Dasha's development/management process for creating the magazine. It will be used for future years/editions.*
- *We voted Dasha, Larry and Jan to be the "working group" for this activity. **We voted to give them authority to make all decisions relevant to this activity.***
- *It has a dedicated email address, [WildApples@londonderryartscouncil.org](mailto:WildApples@londonderryartscouncil.org). It is forwarded to Dasha, Larry and Stephen (as admin).*

### **Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)**

- Submissions end tonight.
- There are about sixty entries (!). Note that at our December there were (11) submissions. The comment was made that that was "a lot" for that time of year.
- Cit will need help sorting through the submissions, to make sure no one is missed being cataloged. Cyndi will help with this. Steph also volunteered if needed.
- Karen, Cit and Cyndi are meeting tomorrow to discuss details about the reception at the library. Also, they will brainstorm ideas on how they can keep all the submitters involved for next year.
- Dasha pointed out that she will need signed release forms from the winners if they agree to be in Wild Apples. Cit will work on this.
- Dasha confirmed that the winners can be in Wild Apples. She needs the artwork by March (they should be available in January, per Cit). Dasha asked for a biography from the winners. Written in third person, 50 words max.

- There will be a reception for the winners at Leach Library. March 7 is available. Holds 75 people. More details to come per Karen.
- Judging is all set. They are Erin Descoteaux, Cyndi Peterson and Kelly Jones.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Dasha confirmed that the winners can be in Wild Apples. She needs the artwork by March (they should be available in January, per Cit). Dasha asked for a biography from the winners. Written in third person, 50 words max.*
- *There will be a reception for the winners at Leach Library. March 7 is available. Holds 75 people. More details to come per Karen.*
- *Judging is all set. They are Erin Descoteaux, Cyndi Peterson and Kelly Jones.*
- *Kicked off on October 1. This is the fifth year of the contest – yay!*
- *This year’s theme is “Art in Outer Space”.*
- *Contest will run October – January 9. Winners announced on Jan. 31, 2026.*

#### **Misc. Items (All)**

- Larry – suggested that we use a modified version the Town’s logo for the LAC logo. Cit will send her first draft of a logo to Greg. He will work on completing it.
- Larry will see if there is a room we can use at the O’Neil Cinema.
- Paul gave feedback on the meeting we held at The Baldwin. Seeds are sprouting. Also told us about an art show there in early February.

#### **Notes from Previous Meetings**

- *Paige said that St. Peter’s church would like to add music to their annual craft fair. The church is looking for help from the LAC and would like to partner with us on this event. Maybe Arts Café could be held there? St. Peter’s also wants to see if they can collaborate with the LAC on other projects. Karen, Paige, Greg will meet with the church – Karen will set up the meeting.*
- **LAC Logo**
  - *Cit is working on a second draft.*
  - *Cit showed an idea for a logo based on the CoC files/colors and asked for feedback.*
- **Londonderry Grange**
  - *The Londonderry Grange is running again, interested in working with this to host events. We will try to coordinate seeing the venue.*
- **Fundraising Event Concept**
  - *Paige asked if we had considered an annual fundraising event that’s inclusive of music, artists selling their work to raise funds specifically for the non-concert programming.*
    - *Can help us stay top of mind in the non-concert months.*
    - *Paige will follow up.*
- *Marilyn Heaps donated a painting to the LAC for us to use as we see fit. Stephen picked it up and has it at his home.*
- *Larry will try to set up a tour of the Morrison Meeting House. It will probably be during the week, during the day (for better light).*
- *LAC Tote Bag – Dasha suggested selling an LAC tote bag. We could get it at the local Enviro-Tote company (Enviro-Tote, Inc. | Custom Canvas Tote Bags Made in the USA). Steph will get a quote for a minimum quantity.*

- *Steph gave an update. Too expensive for the current circumstances, but everyone loved the sample bag she had. We will revisit this later in the year. We will try to have a new LAC logo ready for the bag!*

- Next meeting is Thursday **February 12, 2026** (the second Thursday of the month).