

Londonderry Arts Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 02/12/2026

Meeting Start: 7:06 PM

Meeting End (motion/second): 8:37 Stephen/Karen

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: ~~Ted Combes~~ (TC Liaison), ~~Kirsten Hildonen~~ (Administrative Support Coordinator), ~~Paul Swindlehurst~~, ~~Elaine Barrette~~, Jen Williams, Rev. Mary Beth Mills-Curran

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening Remarks / Welcome New Volunteers (Larry Casey)	2
Andy Mack tree project (Larry Casey, Richard Flyer).....	2
Art in Action / Art on the Common (Cit Waters, Karen Giguere)	2
Arts Café (Karen Giguere, Larry Casey, Greg Descoteaux).....	2
Concerts on the Common (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)	3
Creative Ground (Larry Casey, Dasha Bulatova)	3
Creative Network Night (Paige Williams).....	4
LAC Blog / Social Media (Dasha Bulatova, Steph Miville)	4
LAC Financial Report (Steph Miville, Stephen Lee).....	4
Library Artists (Karen Giguere).....	5
Membership/Officers (Larry Casey).....	5
Old Home Day (Larry Casey, Steph Miville)	5
Plein Air Artist Event (Larry Casey, Steph Miville)	5
Senior Center / For the Love of Music (Greg Descoteaux , Larry Casey)	6
Strategic Plan / Goal Setting Initiative – Town of Londonderry (Committee)	6
Wild Apples Literary Journal (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey)	7
Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)	7

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)

- We discussed, generally, that Arts Café may be integrated with the Wild Apples release party.

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)

- The new "Town" performer contract, written by Paige and reviewed by the Town lawyers, has been sent to three bands. One band has already signed. The other two are still reviewing the contract.
- All but two weeks are booked.
- Larry re-wrote our fundraising letter to get a better response rate. It is much easier to read now.
- We have a new "Diamond" sponsor tier.
- Fundraising letters were sent out to past Platinum sponsors and to the other past sponsors. Starting to get some replies.
- Assuming we get \$8500 from the Town, we need to raise about \$23,000. Last year we had \$20,000 in sponsor donations. However, we are hoping to get \$17,000 (minus Art side) from the Town. If that is the case (and we believe it is), then we are in very good shape.
- Larry renewed our Derry/Londonderry Chamber of Commerce account. He, Steph and Paige will go to the next Chamber meeting to raise awareness of LAC events.
- Larry wrote the fundraising email text.
- Larry will pull a new list of local businesses we will use for direct mail.
- Kirsten set up a Doc-u-sign account for Stephen to use so he can send band contracts directly to Shaun for him to sign.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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)

- Sarah Jardim-Lee sent us an updated financial report. As of 2026-02-09:
 - COTC has \$14,559.47
 - Arts has \$3,012.19
 - Steph and Stephen confirmed that these figures match our internal tracking.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Stephen shared the LAC Google Drive with all the LAC members.*
- *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 on making Paige and Cyndi full voting members. Larry motioned, Steph seconded. APPROVED
- Larry will let the Town administration know our vote. They will have to be sworn in by Sherri Farrell.
- Our quorum now is FIVE people. We have nine voting members now.
- We can have working groups of four people now without triggering a “meeting”.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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*
- *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)

- Next event is Sunday, February 15th.

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)

- Kirsten didn't come to the meeting.
- Our general goal is to find public space for our events and art.
- Create an inventory of properties in town that would support art events.
- Reach out to high school students to get them involved.
- Steph shared the goals that she has been thinking of:
 - Raise awareness/engage (elevate) arts in town.
 - Action Item: Ask the Planning board to require developers add pocket parks/art installations to new developments.
 - Identify inventory space for art exhibits.
 - Engage diverse population to increase visibility of artists, writers, musicians, etc.
 - Publish Wild Apples v3.
 - Engage youth.
 - Nutfield Session.
- Larry – Think of what baby steps we can take to work to reach these goals.
- STEPHEN – Ask Kirsten for the worksheet that she said that she would send to us. Ask if she is coming back in March.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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.*
- *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)

- STEPHEN – Figure out where the money goes when someone orders a Wild Apples journal from our website. How does the Town receive the funds?

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Dasha has 38 accepted submissions, about 20 authors. Good mix of types of submission mediums. A mix of repeat and new authors.*
- *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. It is forwarded to Dasha, Larry and Stephen (as admin).*

Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)

- Award ceremonies will be held on March 7 in the Moose Hill conference room. Can it hold (75) people? Can we have refreshments in the room? Karen will ask Kirsten.
- Karen discussed the financial expenditures related to the program.
- Karen will provide refreshments and decorations. Karen will see if Hannaford will donate a cake.
- Discussed giving flowers to the library as a 'thank you' for their participation and help with this event.
- Karen will submit an expense form once everything is settled. Karen will submit the form to Sally and cc Steph.
- Cit is getting the winner's biographies.
- Karen is prepping for the award event.
- March 14 is a proposed snow date.

- Cit and Karen will work with Kirsten on posting the winner artwork in Town Hall.

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)

- Partner with St. Peter's Church
 - Jen Williams and Rev. Mary Beth Mills-Curran from St. Peter's attended the meeting. They discussed their craft fair, which is held twice a year – in April and September.
 - They would like to add musical entertainment at the fairs. Can we help?
 - They are a juried craft fair. Trying to improve this aspect by adding music and activities for families/kids.
 - St. Peter's has space for our events. They want to support the arts and community.
 - They have classical concerts twice a year.
 - Karen would like to look at their space to see if we could hold the Wild Apples/Arts Café there. Cyndi, Cit and Paige will help, too.
 - For music, maybe Greg could help give them some direction. We can discuss at our next meeting.
 - They want one musician at the event. Larry suggested an open mic.
 - Stephen suggested that they ask the high school if any students would like to participate.
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- Town asked us to attend the Right-to-Know law in March 25 at 6:30.
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- Hope For Heartache
 - A high school student in Windham, Ella Geraci, is getting art supplies for families that are going through grief.
 - Geraci provides art supplies, like journals, coloring books, drawing materials and other creative tools, and accepts monetary donations, for children and teens in need of a safe, expressive outlet for their emotions. Her goal is to reach kids facing grief in all of its forms, whether from the death of a loved one, a serious illness, divorce or other life-altering experiences.
 - She is on the front page of the Derry News this week.
 - Cyndi gathered supplies from December to January. She rounded up a car load of supplies.
 - Ella will come to our next meeting to give us an update on her project.
 - Steph will post photos of Cyndi's contributions to this project on our LAC Facebook page.

- YMCA Paint with Heart
- The YMCA is bringing in an artist to run a workshop for young people and their families.
- Asked us to promote the event. Larry has already emailed information to everyone.
- STEPHEN – put this on the COTC Facebook page.
- STEPH – will post to the LAC Facebook page.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *LAC Logo*
 - *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.*
 - *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 March 12, 2026 (the second Thursday of the month).**