Londonderry Arts Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 03/12/2026

Meeting Start: 7:00 PM **Meeting End (motion/second):** 8:43 PM (Karen/Greg)

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, Cyndi Peterson

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

Visitors: ~~Ted Combes~~ (TC Liaison), Kirsten Hildonen (Administrative Support Coordinator), Paul Swindlehurst, Elaine Barrette, Ella Geraci, Rebecca Berezin (Leach Library, Senior Reference and Adult Services Librarian)

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)

- The Council decided not to continue this event – this was part of the Arts Café discussion (below).

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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??*

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

- Karen doesn't want to continue this event. Public attendance has been low for the past few years. We want to think of a different type of event that will attract more people.
  - Larry – We should think of this as not what the artists want to do, but what does the community want?
  - Becca suggested that the Art events have themes. They need better branding. Arts Café and Art in Action titles are too vague. "What is this going to give me? Is it something that I'm interested in?"
- We started to have a robust discussion of what type of event(s) could replace Arts Café and Art in Action. Becca and others offered some great insight and ideas. We quickly realized that we need a meeting dedicated to adequately discuss/address this issue. Dasha suggested dedicating

a meeting to brainstorming ideas. Larry said he will schedule this as part of our next monthly meeting.

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.*

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

- All the concert dates are booked.
  - Stephen will update the website schedule this weekend.
- Fundraising is moving forward. The next phase is to individually contact past and new sponsors that haven't made a donation yet.
- $9600 left to raise.
- Stephen is working on program layout and signage artwork.
- Larry had a COTC mug made by the marketing company he uses. Everyone thought the sample looked great. Larry will have more mugs made so we can sell them at the concerts.
- Larry went to the Chamber meeting.
  - Larry will queue up a COTC fundraising email blast to Chamber members.
  - The Chamber will post the concert schedule on their website.
  - The Chamber will post the COTC performer weekly during the summer.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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)

- The Town's budget passed on Tuesday. It has $17,000 budgeted for the LAC. $7000 was added to make up for the demise of the NH Council on the Arts – we can no longer get a grant from this organization.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Sarah Jardim-Lee sent us an updated financial report. As of 2026-02-09:*
  - *COTC has $14,559.47*
  - *Arts has $3,012.19*
- *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.*

LAC Logo Development (Greg Descoteaux)

- We discussed the need to have a "branding" logo for the LAC. Having and using this will help Town's people associate all our events with the Londonderry Arts Council. It will hopefully create some synergy for our events.
- Stephen developed an LAC logo concept using AI. He will send the cold, heartless, machine-like images to Greg, along with the colors we use for the COTC artwork. Greg will work on a REAL logo design developed by a REAL human brain and heart. All others are encouraged to contribute ideas and concepts!

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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 showed an idea for a logo based on the CoC files/colors and asked for feedback.*

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)

- Cyndi is sworn in.
- Kristen will get Cyndi and Paige email addresses.
- 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, May 17th.

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 came to the meeting.
- The goals we set are for FY2028.
- We need to set action items and KPIs.
  - *For example* – Action: Create a sub-committee to work on a specific issue. KPI: Hold (3) meetings.
- Becca had a suggestion of an "art walk". Paint night at a restaurant led by an artist. And more…
- Proposed goals/actions discussion:
  - Outreach to other Town groups.
  - Facility for arts.

- Get younger people involved in art events/activities.
    - Dasha – target young adults and families, not just youth and seniors. Becca – there are a lot of Millennials that aren't going to have kids. How do we reach/attract these folks?
    - Build a partnership with the schools.
- Evaluate inventory "space" options to bring people together for art events.
    - Communicating our goal to the public. Becca suggested using (3) Facebook pages for this. Kristen – make a communications plan.

- **Larry asked Kristen to share her notes with the LAC and we will discuss them next month.**

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Our general goal is to find public space for our events and art.*
- *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 is working on the layout of the journal. A lot of work.
    - Greg offered to help with this task.
- Larry will help manage getting the journals printed at Alpha Graphics.
- Party will be early June at the latest. Need to set a date so Dasha can work backward on publishing the journal, etc.
- The release party will be at the Parmenter Barn again. Everyone enjoyed the space a lot.
    - Larry will reserve the barn.
- We discussed getting food for the release party.
    - Becca said to submit a letter on official letterhead to Shaw's at least one month before the party. They almost always will donate food. Becca has the contact info of the person at Shaw's. Karen will help with this.

- Stephen has started work on figuring out where the money goes when someone orders a Wild Apples journal from our website. It appears that the funds are held by Squarespace (our website hosting company) until they can be transferred to an approved bank account. Stephen has contacted Justin Campo to work on this.

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)

- Reception for winners was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers on March 7. It was a wonderful event, and the children really enjoyed it (along with their parents).
- About 85 submissions this year, much more than previous years.
- We will not post photos of the kids online, since their names are listed.
- The winning artwork has been hung at Town Hall.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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.*
- *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.*

Misc. Items (All)

- **Partner with Becca Berezin – Civic Life & Belonging Grant**
  - She asked us to help advertise her musical event in June. We can post information on our Facebook pages.
  - She is still working on funding for the event.

- **St. Peter's Tour** (Karen, Dasha, Greg, Larry)
    - Karen, Dasha, Larry and Greg visited the church before our meeting to check out their event spaces.
    - There is a large room in basement.
    - The sanctuary is very large and open.
    - There is a kitchen facility.
    - They have a smaller area for smaller events, such as a coffee house open mic event.

- **Teen Art Program** (Cyndi)
    - Wednesday, March 25 3:00 - 4:30.
    - Approached by Megan at the library. Working with Molly Kerrigan, she is working with youth. Will be held at the Moose Hill Chambers. There will be a slide show and an art project. It is called Magnifying Voices – highlighting mental health awareness. The art project will be for Magnifying Voices.
    - Molly needs help from the LAC – people to help run the event. Cyndi, Cit and Karen volunteered to help.

- **Potential Program Venues**
    - Larry.

- **Right-to-Know Training**
    - Town asked us to attend the Right-to-Know law in March 25 at 6:30. It will be recorded and available online, also.

- **HOPE After Heartache: A Canvas for Grief**
    - A high school student in Windham, Ella Geraci, came to the meeting to discuss this. The goal is to get art supplies for families that are going through grief.
    - Cyndi introduced Ella.
    - Ella is sending Care Packages for Hope to local hospitals.
    - We offered to let Ella set up a table at the concerts to promote her cause.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- ***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.*
- ***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 it 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.*
- *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 **April 9, 2026** (the second Thursday of the month).