Londonderry Arts Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 09/10/2026

Meeting Start: 7:03 PM **Meeting End (motion/second):** 8:43 PM (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~~, Cyndi Peterson

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

Visitors: ~~Ted Combes~~ (TC Liaison), 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)

- Planning to meet with Andy Mack, Jr.
- Greg has taken photos of some of the trees.
- Paige is making a spreadsheet to capture the information.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Richard Flyer is ready to kick this off.*
- *Larry and Dasha will start this in June.*
- *Create a map of the trees with documentation on them.*
- *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.*

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

- No update.
- 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 about 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)

- $31,888 sponsor donations. Total budget was $44,536 including rollover and Town funds of $8500. We ended the season $6,188 in the black. This figure still needs to be reconciled with the Town's accounts, though.
- We had 53 sponsors, up from 44 last year.
- Indoors for two concerts due to weather.
- Plenty of volunteers at every concert. Gave out $600 in gift cards to NH Great Restaurants to volunteers.
- Started giving "goodie bags" (homemade mint chocolate chip cookies and a small loaf of banana bread) to all the performers and sound engineer at each concert to show our appreciation.
- Total attendance was 6,811, last year was 5,811. Average outdoor attendance was 725, up 25% from 2025.
- Starting to book performers for next year.
- Next year's schedule gains one additional Wednesday between our usual start and end dates, allowing for an extra concert.
- Kirsten asked Larry for a budget number by the end of July. He couldn't provide that.
- We think that the additional $7000 from the Town this year (FY 2027) will be $3500 next year (FY 2028) due to budget cuts. We won't know for sure until next March, after the election and the budget is approved by the Town.

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)

- We plan to have a full update at October's meeting.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *The Town's 2027 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.*
- *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)

- Based on the meeting discussion, Stephen modified Greg's logo.
- Everyone approved using it going forward.
- Stephen updated the website and added it to the COTC program.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Greg brought some initial designs for feedback.*
- *Greg suggested that we use a variant of the Town's logo. He will send it out in different formats to everyone so we can all iterate on it.*
- *Folks wanted to play with the colors and font (try a sans serif font).*
- Larry asked Ted if there is a trademark issue. He doesn't think that it is, but it should be. We will ask Paige for her opinion on this issue.
- *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.*
- *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.*

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.*

Londonderry School District Collaboration (Larry Casey)

- Larry and Cyndi met with LHS teachers to discuss getting students to contribute to Wild Apples, and participate in other LAC activities.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- ***Dan Black, Superintendent of Schools*** *– Exploration of collaboration opportunities between School District and Arts Council.*
  - *We want to develop programming that appeals to children and their families.*
  - *An example would be the LHS night at COTC. Another example would be COTC for KIDS! Also, the Youth Art Contest.*
  - *Wild Apples has younger contributors – we would like to have more. And, also, have them involved in the production of the journal. Dan thinks the English department would be the best fit to work with to begin with.*
  - *We want kids to be involved with COTC.*
  - *Dan asked for information on the Youth Art Contest, so he can get teachers, etc aware and involved.*
  - *Steph – we would like a liaison from the schools to give us feedback and inform us of their needs. Initially, Dan said to go through him. The art departments are "islands" in the different schools, unlike the music departments.*
  - *We want to be aware of the school department's child safety requirements.*
  - *Students could head social media for LAC.*
  - *Students could ask the LAC for support for a program that they would like to do.*
  - *LAC could curate a student art exhibit.*
  - *LAC could support the art teachers for things they do not have the bandwidth to do.*
  - *STEPHEN – send Dan the COTC schedule and contact info for student volunteers. Also, Wild Apples and Youth Art Contest.*
  - *STEPHEN – update the LAC google calendar. (DONE)*

Membership/Officers (Larry Casey)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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".*
- *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)

- Sold some COTC t-shirts and Wild Apples journals.
- Spent about $100 on marketing materials.
- Cyndi suggested that we have something to give away next year. She had samples of coloring books, as one idea.
  - For (250), they are $0.97 each. Plus $35 setup and shipping.
  - Crayons are on sale now at Staples.
  - Steph suggested having an LAC bag that the kids could use to carry it in.
  - Elaine is currently creating coloring books for her business use.
  - May want to have two different books for older and younger age groups.
  - Larry pointed out that if we spend more than $1500 we have to get quotes per Town policy.
  - Cit suggested that would could do an LAC custom book. Artists could donate a page.
  - Cyndi, Steph, Larry will create a Task Team to help with this effort. Cyndi will run point.
- Cit thought our setup with good. We had a lot of traffic. Should get a banner with our new logo on it.
- Should use “washable” markers next year, not Sharpie’s.

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, September 17th, 1:00 – 4:00.
- Stephen updated the website with the correct date.

- Larry will be out of town. Greg will run it.

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)

- The Town Council voted to delay implementing this for a year.

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.*
    - ***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)

- The release party was held Saturday May 30, 3:00 – 5:00, at the Parmenter Barn.
- Great turn out.
- Issue 3 submissions are being accepted until December 31. Our website has been updated to announce we are looking for submissions.
- Netted $726 selling the journals and donations.
  - $685 from selling journals.

- Not planning to order more journals at this time, but we may have to do that…TBD.
- Larry and Cyndi met with LHS teachers to discuss getting students to contribute.

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. It is forwarded to Dasha, Larry and Stephen (as admin).*

Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters)

- No update.
- 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

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Misc. Items (All)

- **Londonderry Pride Event, September 12 – 10:00 to 4:00**
  - Cit is going to have a table.
  - Cit friends are going to help.
  - Stephen will bring COTC programs.

- **Grange #44 Availability - Dasha, Larry**
  - It is back in business.

- Larry and Dasha have the rental details and cost.
- It has been updated significantly. It has a bathroom and kitchen now.
- It is available to book April – December.
- Capacity is 75 people.
- Elaine talked about having an art show during Old Home Day many years ago.
- Maybe have the LAC booth for OHD at this location??

- **Traditional Music Events - Dasha, Larry**
  - Want to bring a performer, Tim Erickson, to Londonderry for a performance. He is a folk musician. Looking into the cost.
  - May do it at the Grange Hall.
  - Do this in conjunction with the Grange Hall or Historical Society.
    - This would tie into the LAC collaborating with another group in Londonderry per our Strategic Goal.
  - Target date is next fall.
  - Sell tickets to the event.
  - Steph said that she would like to help.
  - Larry will put together a one-page project plan to review at our October meeting.

- **Friends of the Arts Council – Cyndi**
  - Cyndi would like to see us start this group.
  - If volunteers come to our meetings, there isn't necessarily anything for them to do.
  - For example, they could run the rock painting event.
  - Cit suggested having "fake" projects for them to get started with. Have an informal meeting/place for people to attend.
  - Paul said that the first task should be a very "low hurdle" to start with. That will get folks to participate, and some will then ask, "what else can we do?"
  - Larry – we could hold a social event at the Grange Hall that folks could come to talk with us in an informal setting.

- **"Our Town" Photo Project – Paul, Stephen, Larry**
  - Paul explained this project to the group.
  - Paul, Larry and Stephen tried to schedule a trip to meet with Crista Dix, Executive Director of the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, MA to ask her about their "Our Town" photography experience. Unfortunately, we couldn't make a date happen. We are scheduled to have a video conference with Crista in late October.
  - The project is to ask local photographers to submit photos of what Londonderry means to them.

- **Town Hall Access**
  - Town Hall has updated how conference rooms are accessed. You need to have a badge.
  - LAC officers should get badges to have access. Larry will send contact information via email.

- **Proposed New Activities**
  - Cyndi talked about some activities that she saw in New Market:

        - An outdoor display box and a mural.
        - A kindness rock garden.
    - Larry asked Cyndi to bring a one-page project proposal to our October meeting.
    - Steph will look for a grant opportunity that may tie in with this idea.

- **Library Thank You**
    - Cyndi dropped off a flower arrangement at Leach Library to thank them for support.

- **Derry Chamber of Commerce "New Resident Welcome Package"**
    - Cyndi - Should the LAC have information in the Derry Chamber of Commerce "welcome wagon" package that they give to new residents?

Notes from Previous Meetings

- ***Community Survey***
    - *Larry wants to do a community survey. He will be sending emails out to subgroups to determine the questions we want to ask.*
    - *Larry handed out a breakdown of the age demographics in Londonderry.*

- ***LAC Brochure***
    - *Elaine brought samples of the brochure that she and Karen worked on.*
    - *Have a QR code to our current sponsors.*
    - *Larry – only have "why should I be interested in this?".*
    - *Suggested sections - Appeal to patrons of the arts and artists. Be a sponsor.*
    - *STEPHEN – send the mailing list QR code to Elaine.*

- ***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.*

- ***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.*

- ***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?*
- *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 **October 8, 2026** (the second Thursday of the month).