Londonderry Arts Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 10/08/2026

Meeting Start: 7:59 PM **Meeting End (motion/second):** 8:11 PM (Stephen / Greg)

Minutes recorded by: Stephen Lee

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

Officers: Larry Casey (Chairperson), Stephanie Miville (Vice Chairperson) (Remote call-in), Stephanie Miville (Acting Treasurer) (Remote call-in), 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, Michelle Fontaine

LAC Working Groups

Youth Art Contest (Karen Giguere, Cit Waters, Cyndi Peterson)
Literary Magazine (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey)
Concerts on the Common (Stephen Lee, Larry Casey, Steph Miville)

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)

- Met with Mike Cross, the former manager for Mack's Apples.
- Greg has taken photos of some of the trees. May take photos of all four seasons.
- Paige made a spreadsheet to capture the information. Larry is using it going forward.
- Larry had a map showing where the trees are located.
- Elaine suggested we consider holding a Plein Air event in conjunction with the Trees launch.
- Considering other projects and workload (Wild Apples, Youth Art Contest, photographing trees in various seasons), the consensus seemed to be that the final publication deliverable might not happen until mid-to-late next year.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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.*

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

- We ended the season $14,739 in the black. This figure still needs to be reconciled with the Town's accounts, but there is only a few hundred dollars in PayPal to account for.
- With the current budget for the concerts, we need to raise about $23,000. That includes the "extra" concert. Note that we raised $32,000 for the 2026 season.
- Starting to book performers for next year.

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.***
- *Next year's schedule gains one additional Wednesday between our usual start and end dates, allowing for an extra concert.*
- *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.*

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)

- Steph is working with Sarah to get a final report for this year.

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.*

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)

- No update.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- ***Dan Black, Superintendent of Schools*** *– Exploration of collaboration opportunities between School District and Arts Council.*
  - *Larry and Cyndi met with LHS teachers to discuss getting students to contribute to Wild Apples, and participate in other LAC activities.*
  - *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)

- Elaine suggested holding an art show in the Grange hall during OHD. We may still have a booth on the Common, as well.
- Elaine asked Larry to check on hall availability during OHD for this show.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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.*

- *Should get a banner with our new logo on it.*
- *Should use "washable" markers next year, not Sharpie's.*

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

- The Sunday, September 17th event was very successful. There were a good number of musicians participating.
- The date of the next event is **Dec. 13**. Holiday theme with guests asked to wear their favorite sweater.

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.*

Wild Apples Literary Journal (Dasha Bulatova, Larry Casey)

- Four submissions for Issue 3 so far.
- Before the meeting, Dasha emailed a promotional message and asked folks to share with their network to encourage submissions. Elaine and special guest, Michelle Fontaine, said they would spread the word.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *Issue 3 submissions are being accepted until December 31. Our website has been updated to announce we are looking for submissions.*
- *Dasha asked Steph to see if Sunnycrest will carry Wild Apples in their store. Would Mack's also carry WA? Larry will investigate 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, Cyndi Peterson)

- This year's theme is "**Under the Sea**". The contest is running from October 1st through January 8th. Duties have been divided up between Cit, Cyndi and Karen for the contest.
- We have three judges, Ava, Kelly and Cyndi. Cyndi conducted a meeting on September 2 to discuss setting up a rubric for judging. It was a very productive meeting. Everyone is excited about the new contest.
- Application is complete and advertising has begun for the contest. We are contacting the following school districts for entries, Londonderry, Manchester, Windham, Derry and Hudson. We were worried that the contest might become too large to manage and judge. It was decided that in the event of over 100 submissions, the number of submissions would be split amongst the judges to narrow down the list.

Notes from Previous Meetings

- *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.*

Misc. Items (All)

- **Painting Opportunity in Nashua**
  - Michelle Fontaine came to our meeting to discuss the artist center she is involved in that is in Nashua.
  - She encouraged artists to take advantage of the space and meet other artists.

- **Londonderry Pride Event, September 12 – 10:00 to 4:00**
  - Cit had a great table at the event. The weather was perfect.
  - A lot of traffic during the day, the event was very successful.

- **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**
  - Video call scheduled for Oct. 12 with Crista Dix, Executive Director of the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, MA to ask her about their "Our Town" photography experience.
  - 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.*

- ***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 **November 12, 2026** (the second Thursday of the month).