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One Londonderry
Ideas and Opportunities

**Identified by Town Forums on February 3, 2021
and surveys both online and printed and distributed around town**

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This is a list of the ideas for potential action that the VCRD Visiting Team heard from Londonderry community members. It is not endorsed as a platform by VCRD or by the community—instead, it is a set of ideas for review and prioritization for action at the One Londonderry Community Meeting on February 25.

Improve Internet Connection

A Task Force could form to improve internet service by collecting data on existing coverage, connecting with resources and providers to explore possibilities, and accessing funding and support to improve connection.

Support Local Farms and Food Access

A Task Force could form to explore a community food hub model and identify a space to hold a winter farmers market to improve access and support local farms year-round. The group could also host an annual seed swap and other events and expand access to community gardens.

Improve Public Transportation

A Task Force could identify and promote ways to increase public transportation options such as partnering with the tri-town region to expand routes or frequency and looking at ways to link the villages and other nearby community centers. The group could also explore and develop creative alternatives such as a local ride sharing model.

Expand Affordable Housing

Many residents see a crucial need for more affordable, safe, and quality housing for people of all ages and income levels. A Housing Committee could work with regional partners such as the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust to assess current needs and explore options including new development, co-housing models, multi-generational housing, and more. Additionally, the group could focus on a review of zoning and other regulations to improve housing development opportunities and access.

Expand and Improve Recreational Facilities

A Task Force could form to inventory current recreation needs and develop a strategy to improve current facilities as well as expand recreation opportunities that could include an indoor recreation center, an ice rink, a skate park, pickleball courts, curling center, parks improvements, and more. This work could also include improved access to recreational gear through a community equipment library or exchange.

Improve and Expand Pedestrian and Bike Infrastructure

A task force could form to expand and improve the infrastructure to make the Londonderry area safe, accessible, and enjoyable for pedestrians and bikers with bike lanes and paths, biking and walking trail maps, a pedestrian bridge over the West River, a river-walk, sidewalk improvements, and improved connectivity between villages and other towns. These improvements could position Londonderry as a destination and hub for accessible recreation for families and individuals.

Boost Tourism and Marketing

A Task Force could form to identify and implement strategies to document, showcase, and market Londonderry assets, amenities, and attractions to draw visitors to the area. The group could develop a web presence, brand and marketing, catalogue lodging and dining options, curate visitor information, and create packages and guided tours.

Develop Wastewater Infrastructure

In order to improve opportunity for housing development, business expansion, and critical services such as childcare, a Task Force could develop and implement a plan to build a community wastewater system in Londonderry.

Expand Access to Quality Childcare

Access to affordable childcare is a challenge for many in the Londonderry community. A Task Force could form to focus on this challenge and build on existing work to identify the gaps and find ways to meet needs and reduce barriers. The group could explore options to expand current offerings, develop new childcare options, and boost training and support for early education providers.

Support and Foster Local Businesses

A Task Force could form to identify and implement ways to attract, boost, and support local businesses. The group could reach out to small businesses and develop a network to coordinate and share resources, ad space, training, and help to address any challenges or barriers businesses face. Residents shared ideas for attracting businesses to town including a laundromat, a café, a retail outlet for local artisans, retail cannabis, and more. The community could consider a local economic development committee or a chamber model to carry out these strategies.

Develop a Community Center

A group could form to develop a community center space in Londonderry to serve as a community gathering space, afterschool hub, youth center, potential childcare site, and more. Spaces for redevelopment could include the Mill Property, the Old Town Hall, or the group could consider new development to carry out these functions.

Develop a Co-Working and/or Incubator Space

A Task Force could form to evaluate the feasibility of and explore the development of a local co-working space and/or incubator to offer a shared office space and training and resources for area business owners, remote workers, and entrepreneurs as well as studio space and equipment for artisans and makers.

Redevelop the Old Town Hall

A Task Force could create and implement a plan to renovate and redevelop the Old Town Hall as a community space for year-round gatherings, events, and community meetings.

Improve Community Communications and Unity

Londonderry residents expressed a need to better connect with neighbors, bridge existing divides, and improve communication among different groups in the community. A Task Force could form to focus to create a communications strategy to share community events, information, and improve

connection and unity. The group could explore strategies from physical kiosks and print newsletters to email listservs, a central website, an online calendar, or other local news and communications platforms.

Expand Community Events
A Community Events Task Force could come together to plan an annual series of local events that could help to unify and connect the community. Events could include food festivals, holiday gatherings, foliage celebrations, recreation/sporting events, garden tours, and other exciting activities.

Coordinate Youth and Family Programming
Many Londonderry residents expressed a need for more opportunities for families to connect and access programming as well as a need for activities for youth in the community. A Task Force could work to unite local groups and organizations to create a full calendar of programming that would provide enriching activities for youth, help to better connect youth and the community, and deepen connection among families.

Revitalize the Village Centers
A group could form to work with regional and state experts to develop and implement a plan to revive, beautify, and redevelop the Londonderry village centers. Plans could find a balance for a design that protects the rural character of the community while creating a stronger sense of place, improved aesthetics, and accessibility. Plans could include signage, sidewalks, traffic calming strategies, bike lanes, benches, and more. The community could examine a 1% local options tax as a funding tool to support these efforts.

Plan for Flood Mitigation and Resilience
A Task Force could form to focus on improvements for flood mitigation and resilience. The group could review current needs and develop a plan to address flood plain issues, protect the villages, and suggest regulatory and structural changes to prevent further flood damage or erosion.

Increase Access to Alternative Health Care
Londonderry residents celebrate the many alternative health care providers in town. A group could come together to boost access to these services by creating a central hub with space for a variety of health care providers. Additionally, the group could consider collective marketing and other strategies to boost awareness and use of these local providers.