

1 **LONDONDERRY COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**  
2 **UPDATE: KICKOFF CITIZEN WORKSHOP**  
3 **MINUTES OF THE April 12, 2012 WORKSHOP AT THE Londonderry High**  
4 **School Cafeteria**  
5

6 Members Present: Leitha Reilly, Chair and Planning Board Representative; Marty  
7 Srugis, Vice Chair and Heritage Commission Representative; Lisa Whittemore,  
8 Budget Committee Representative; Representative; Mike Speltz, Conservation  
9 Commission Representative; Deb Paul, Business Community Representative; Mary  
10 Tetreault, At-Large representative (North); Mary Soares, Alternate Planning Board  
11 representative; and Deb Lievens, Alternate Conservation Commission  
12 representative  
13

14 Also Present: Community Development Director André Garron, AICP; Town Planner  
15 Cynthia May, ASLA; GIS Manager John Vogl; Community Development Secretary  
16 Jaye Trottier, and Brian Wright and Matt Noonkester of Town Planning and Urban  
17 Design Collaborative (TPUDC)  
18

19 L. Reilly thanked the audience for attending and introduced consultants B. Wright  
20 M. Noonkester of TPUDC. She then gave a brief description of both the Master Plan  
21 as well as the function of the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC). The purpose  
22 of this workshop, she explained, is to listen to the ideas and comments from  
23 residents. No decisions would be made as a result of this event or the subsequent  
24 week-long workshop known as Planapalooza (May 31 through June 5). Instead, the  
25 goal is to accumulate as much input as possible to build a vision that will guide the  
26 future of Londonderry.  
27

28 B. Wright explained TPUDC's role as data collectors and impartial facilitators who,  
29 without preconceived notions, will listen to all ideas, opinions, and desires of the  
30 public. That information, along with the raw data collected, aids in discovering  
31 insights which then reveal the enduring principles of Londonderry residents. The  
32 tools associated with those guiding principles are used to implement the overall  
33 plan. Specialists for separate issues (e.g. traffic, infrastructure, etc.) will be  
34 brought in to apply their expertise to the information collected, but because those  
35 individual factors all have an impact on each other, a holistic approach is used to  
36 generate the larger picture that is Londonderry.  
37

38 The goal of Planapalooza, he continued, is to create a "fun" atmosphere where  
39 residents will be open to express their ideas and opinions. TPUDC's aim is to make  
40 residents feel part of their team so Londonderry can "get it right," as the theme of  
41 the Master Plan states. A reflexive progress report will be presented during the  
42 week to show residents what information has been accumulated and verify whether  
43 it is pertinent and thorough. The listening process then continues for TPUDC  
44 through the rest of the week based on the results of that progress report. In the  
45 end, TPUDC intends on presenting a useful document that will combine the town's  
46 vision for the future and the means to be able to achieve it. With the involvement

47 of as many residents as possible, a balance can potentially be developed where the  
48 plan includes "something for everyone at every stage of life." Information and  
49 updates throughout the process can be found (among other places) on Facebook  
50 (<http://www.facebook.com/LondonderryMasterPlan>), the Town website, and in the  
51 local newspapers.

52

53 Comments and questions from audience members were as follows:

54

55 • The Town Common is used for planned events, but there is no place in town  
56 like a park for people to use;

57

58 • How is the location of the Town center determined? The Town Common is  
59 used for planned events, but Londonderry does not have a traditional  
60 "downtown";

61

62 • Where do the funds come from to make to implement the Master Plan?  
63 (Methods mentioned in response were sensible fiscal planning that sets  
64 priorities when Town resources must be spent and/or having a plan in place  
65 when grant monies, developer funds, and State and Federal monies become  
66 available);

67

68 • Assuming that not all aspects of the plan are implemented before the next  
69 review in ten years, will this plan include continuity so that it can flow into  
70 the next? (Answer: The goal is to establish "timeless" principles that will  
71 enable continuity to plans beyond just the next);

72

73 • It is important to keep in mind where the town has come from as we plan for  
74 the future, i.e. to look at how the town has handled the tremendous growth  
75 over the last 30 years and use that response to imagine our own plan for  
76 future growth;

77

78 • Why is it being questioned whether the Town Common is adequate? Why  
79 would we want to relocate the center of the town? (Answer: that is an issue  
80 that was brought up to TPUDC and continues to be discussed by residents);

81

82 • Once you get feedback about "WHAT" people want, how do we obtain that  
83 "WHAT"? We need coaching to learn how to achieve whatever it is we find  
84 that we want. (Answer: TPUDC is very prepared to provide that coaching  
85 and guidance so that the plan is a useful tool);

86

87 • Why would be spend time and effort trying to locate the town center when it  
88 may be changed by the Woodmont Commons development? (Answer:  
89 Known potential alternatives will be included in such a discussion so the  
90 current preference can be identified but a future one can be planned for as  
91 well);

92

- 93 • What does TPUDC have in mind to attract the younger generation? (Answer:  
94 This is a key group that TPUDC plans to focus on. It is hoped that it will be  
95 discovered what it will take to keep that generation in town);  
96  
97 • How can we draw more residents in to events like Planapalooza? We need a  
98 mechanism to attract people. (Answer: The town needs to find those  
99 mechanisms and TPUDC will apply them);  
100  
101 • The younger generation is often bored with the lack of activities in town.  
102 Woodmont Commons may be a positive step for the future residents of  
103 Londonderry;  
104  
105 • Is Town Planning and Urban Design Collaborative able to detach themselves  
106 from high density planning and apply their knowledge to a rural town?  
107 (Answer: TPUDC understands there is an appropriate context for each town  
108 and that varying lifestyles exist. TPUDC is a proponent of New Urbanism, but  
109 is not here to compel Londonderry to adopt it);  
110  
111 • Do we necessarily need things to change? Are we finding out our wants  
112 instead of our needs? Will things change just the sake of change? Will our  
113 taxes increase for things that we don't necessarily need?  
114  
115 • Londonderry is no longer a rural town and change is inevitable, therefore  
116 residents need to decide HOW the town will change;  
117  
118 • Those who have been here for the last ten years have not witnessed the kind  
119 of growth that residents saw when the previous Master Plan was developed.  
120 They have not seen the kind of radical change that would incite people to  
121 become involved. Residents need to be shown that change will come and  
122 what kind of change it will be (e.g. through a detailed buildout plan);  
123  
124 • How can an interest in the town's future be cultivated amongst the transient  
125 portion of the town's population?  
126  
127 • Having seen the Town on a preliminary level, does TPUDC see Londonderry  
128 as rural or urban? (Answer: It is not urban. It is a mix of suburban and  
129 rural; it could be considered "ruralesque" or "rural under threat")  
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131  
132 Respectfully submitted,  
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135  
136  
137 Jaye Trottier, Community Development Secretary  
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