Excellent strategic move. Focusing on a "deal-maker" law firm as your first partner can create a powerful domino effect, rapidly accelerating your ability to secure other collaborators.

Here’s a revised checklist for **Stage 1: Foundation & Framework (Week 1)** that puts this partnership at the core of your strategy.

### **Revised Stage 1 Checklist (Week 1)**

* **Identify and Secure a Strategic Legal Partner:**
  + Research and shortlist law firms in Tonawanda known for real estate development and strong local connections.
  + Prioritize firms with a reputation for facilitating deals and connecting partners.
  + Schedule consultations to pitch the WNY Makers model and the 2829 River Road vision.
  + **Goal:** Solidify a partnership that leverages their network for introductions to key builders, suppliers, and investors.
* **Co-Develop Project Framework with Legal Partner:**
  + Collaborate with your chosen firm to finalize the project's legal and business structure.
  + Draft and refine all necessary partnership agreements for future co-developers.
  + Leverage the firm's expertise to create a clear path for navigating local zoning, permits, and approvals.
* **Finalize Core Project Assets:**
  + With legal input, finalize the mission statement, project overview, and site plan.
  + Develop a compelling proposal deck tailored for the partners your law firm will introduce.

This approach makes your first week highly targeted. Instead of just handling legal setup, you're establishing a partnership that becomes a springboard for the entire project.

What criteria will be most important when selecting this law firm?