MEETING MINUTES

PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

June 5, 2009 Pease Development Authority Conference Room 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Dana Levenson, Chairman; Everett Eaton, Vice-Chairman, William Gladhill,

Dr. Paul Harvey, Susanne Delaney, Josh Cyr, Tim Allison, Lisa DeStefano

Members Excused: Jack Blalock Absent: Ken Smith

Chairman Levenson opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2009

Following a motion by Mr. Eaton and a second by Mr. Cyr, the draft meeting minutes of May 1, 2009 were unanimously approved as written.

Welcome and Update on Activity at Pease International Tradeport

PDA Director Dave Mullen provided a handout on recent activities at the Tradeport. As of fall 2008, Pease had over 250 companies occupying 4.4 million square feet of office and industrial space and directly employing over 7,000 people. Economic estimates are that another 3,500 people are indirectly employed by companies doing business with those at Pease. The total payroll for these two employment sources is approaching \$500 million.

Per the agreement that established the Tradeport, estimated revenues to the State of NH exceed \$10 million. Assessment for Pease properties total \$404.3 million which has generated over \$4.9 million in revenues for the City of Portsmouth. Construction activity has been steady. Highlights include a 56,000 square foot building for Salient Surgical Technologies, a new 38 bed rehabilitation facility at Northeast Rehab, a new daycare center for 250 children at Great Bay Kids, and Ocean Properties' newly proposed 72,000 square-foot, LEED-certified office building. With only 60 acres of vacant developable land available, opportunities for future development is limited at the Tradeport.

The EDC asked about the new Golf Clubhouse and the use of the land for a recreational facility versus a business facility. Mr. Mullen responded that the former building was obsolete and the new building will add a social and dining element to the business park. This facility is an affordable opportunity to recreate for employees and residents. It also provides a 70-seat venue for functions.

In response to a question about recent activity at the Port of NH, Mr. Mullen indicated that the PDA is evaluating potential expansion of port uses which includes ferry service to Nova Scotia for both passenger and cargo services. Mr. Levenson thanked Mr. Mullen and staff for hosting the EDC and complemented them on their success.

Old Business

Islington Street Improvement Action Plan – The final public meeting will be held on June 24th at the Levenson Room of the Public Library fro 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

New Business/Other Business

Seacoast Local Festival - The festival will be held on June 6, 2009 from 1:00PM – 4:00 PM. The City will share a festival booth with Art-Speak. EDC members were encouraged to stop by.

Economic Revitalization Zone Tax Credit

The City Manager informed the EDC that the City has received a letter from High Liner Foods, Inc., requesting that the City apply to the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development for approval of the Borthwick Avenue area as an Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ). The request is in anticipation of an expansion by Highliner Foods involving new capital equipment and new job creation. He will be bringing a request to the City Council at the June 8, 2009 meeting for authorization to designate and apply to the State for an ERZ at the Borthwick Ave. business site.

Timberland

Mr. Bohenko informed the EDC that he received a phone call from the Timberland Company informing him that the firm decided to remain in Stratham and upgrade their existing facility rather than re-locate. Mr. Bohenko said despite Timberland's recent decision, the city and Portwalk made a strong proposal in support of relocating to downtown. In the process of doing so, the city developed a parking discount incentive for companies with large workforces. Mr. Levenson thanked Mr. Bohenko and complemented the City on its appeal to Timberland.

Rockingham Junction Rail Spur

Ms. DeStefano informed the EDC that she has been in contact with the representatives of EBTAC, LLC (Education, Business & Transportation Advisory Corps), the entity that made a presentation to the EDC this spring on the potential upgrade to the spur between Exeter and Portsmouth. She said that the company has a grant for a feasibility analysis but is still exploring other funding sources for a complete investigation of the long-term viability of restoring rail service to Newfields and Exeter.

Public Comment Period

There was no one wishing to speak under this item.

Confirm Next Meeting Date: September 4, 2009

Adjourn and reconvene at Newmarket International (at 75 New Hampshire Ave.) for tour

The Commission reconvened the meeting at Newmarket International where representatives provided an overview of the company and a tour of the new LEED-certified office.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Carmer. Economic Development Program Manager