

MEETING MINUTES
PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 8, 2010

Portsmouth Regional Hospital

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Dana Levenson, Chairman; Christine Dwyer; William Gladhill, Dr. Paul Harvey, Susanne Delaney, Lisa DeStefano, Tim Allison, Josh Cyr, Ron Zolla,
Excused: Everett Eaton, Vice-Chairman; Nancy Novelline Clayburgh

Chairman Levenson opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. and thanked representatives from Portsmouth Hospital for hosting the event. He introduced Anne Jamieson, CEO of the hospital who in turn introduced her management team and welcomed the EDC to the facility. She noted the importance of good communication between local government and the hospital in order to assure that the hospital has the appropriate health care professionals and programs in place to serve the community. She is excited about the hospital's expansion and renovation project and said that it will provide state of the art cardiac and other health services to the city.

Before moving to the regular agenda, Mr. Levenson expressed appreciation to 2009 EDC City Council representatives Jack Blalock and Ken Smith for their service and welcomed incoming EDC City Council representatives Nancy Novelline Clayburgh and Christine Dwyer.

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2009

Following a motion by Ms. DeStefano and a second by Dr. Harvey, the draft meeting minutes of December 4, 2009 were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business

City Council Referral on Flag Policy

The EDC is scheduled to make a presentation to City Council on January 19th on the flag policy recommendation approved by the EDC last month. It was agreed that Josh Cyr, the EDC subcommittee chair will make the presentation. All members were encouraged to attend the meeting to show support for the recommendation.

Mayors Blue Ribbon Committee on Downtown Events Public Input Session – January 12th

A meeting to gather public input is scheduled for January 12th at 6:0 PM in Conference Room A. Ms. Carmer noted that 73 comments were submitted online on the topic. A large majority of the comments were in favor of holding events on the city.

Review 2009 Action Plan – Year in Review and Guiding Economic Development Principles

The EDC reviewed the 2009 EDC Year in Review report and the proposed guiding principles. Ms. DeStefano commented on how inter-related the principles are and how critical it is to keep the appropriate balance of all principles to maintain economic vitality. In order to broaden the destination activity that Portsmouth solicits, a slight change was made to the tourism guiding principle. It was agreed that the edited report and principles will be transmitted to the City Council.

Update on City Council Action on Zoning Amendments

This item was deferred to the February 5, 2010 EDC meeting. Chairman Levenson will work with city staff to develop a summary of the Zoning Amendments for discussion at the February 5th EDC meeting.

New Business

Discussion on development of 2010 EDC Action Plan

Chairman Levenson distributed a compilation of EDC potential action priorities for 2010 as proposed by members at the December meeting and asked if there were any changes. The suggestion was made to add advocacy for Memorial Bridge repair project and support for continued funding of the Spaulding Turnpike Little Bay Bridges improvements. Ms. Carmer will revise the plan priorities for action at the February 5, 2010 meeting.

Maine- NH Bridge Connections Study Update

The next public hearing to present the results of the fatal flaw analysis of bridge alternatives will be, February 10th from 6-8 PM with a reception from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Portsmouth Public Library.

Report on EDC participation at December 8th Seacoast Local Event

Chairman Levenson thanked EDC Commissioners Delaney, Allison and Zolla for attending the Seacoast Local event with Dan Houston of *Civic Economics* on December 8th. He reported that he had attended a meeting of the regional Economic Development Managers with Mr. Houston during the afternoon of December 8th and was impressed with the seacoast “buy local” movement. Mr. Allison commented that the event was a good opportunity to meet many of the small business owners and to network with economic development leaders from Dover and Somersworth. Ms. Delaney commented on the beneficial information provided by the panelists and the perspectives that were expressed.

Confirm Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is February 5, 2010 and will be held at City Hall in Conference Room A.

Public Comment Period

David Choate spoke to the recent zoning ordinance amendments such as the changes to the parking credit rates which he feels will have significant impacts to future development downtown. He suggested the EDC ask for a presentation on the changes from the Planning Director.

Portsmouth Regional Hospital Presentation and Tour of Expansion.

William Duffy, the Engineer and Facilities Manager of the hospital gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the hospital’s \$67 million expansion and renovation project followed by a tour of the facility.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy M. Carmer
Economic Development Program Manager