

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON
Citywide Neighborhood Committee
Meeting Summary

September 15, 2015 Conference Room A, Portsmouth City Hall
Present: Cristy Cardoso, Paul Mannle, Cliff Lazenby, Kathy Bergeron, Marie Kelleher
Also Present: Margery Andrews, Judy Miller, Sarah McLaughlin, Susan Shea
Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 7:03.

Cristy announced that an attendance sheet was going around.

Paul Mannle made a motion to accept the minutes of the July meeting, Cliff Lazenby seconded, all voted yes.

New Business:

Discover Portsmouth – Cristy introduced Erica Beers from Discover Portsmouth who explained where Discover Portsmouth is and what it is.

All Portsmouth History under one roof, it is owned and operated by the historical society

There is a museum store, and walking tours led by Richard Candy.

They get 30,000 visitors per year.

They have program space available from 10 AM to 5 PM (usual hours), free to all non-profits.

They also offer lectures, which are all listed on their website.

Cristy asked about an essay contest, Erika will talk to the director.

Erika told us about the gingerbread house exhibit which is free to see and to enter.

CIP 101 – Cristy: In January we went to City Council and asked about the Capital Improvement Plan and the inequity among the neighborhoods. Most towns do not have a CIP, and we relayed the need for more education, clarity and transparency.

The outcome was that public works will put on an educational meeting to explain the process and take input. It is the opportunity to give ideas. Most projects are 10+ years from beginning to end. This is your chance to see what the status of that project is and to ask questions.

Cristy used the example of the Market Street Extension project, which is aesthetics only. Why was that put in front of other projects? Hoping that public dialogue will clarify these types of questions.

Meeting to be held September 23, 6:30 PM, in the Levenson Room.

Other Meetings –

Master Plan Meetings as listed on the back of the agenda

Cliff explained that the Master Plan is 'higher up' than the CIP. The Master Plan should guide what is put onto the CIP.

National Register- NH Department of Historic Resources is evaluating downtown Portsmouth for potential inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Meeting 6PM September 28 at the Library.

Old Business:

Cristy: Vacancies on our steering committee. Nomination for chair will happen at the November meeting.

Next Door: It is an on line social network for neighborhoods.

How is the map created? Uses our map plus an algorithm of distances.

Neighborhood Reports:

Paul Mannle – South Islington: Bridge is open, and now there are lots of speeders. Rick Becksted has asked for lower speed at traffic and safety, not a great response. Heard they will be paving in front of Hannaford before winter.

Christian Shore – Sara McLaughlin: Trying to organize a group. Issues with stop sign at Thornton and Burkitt, Burkitt is a mess as far as road, sidewalks, etc. Cristy told her to go to traffic and safety for a stop sign and talk to police about speeders. Neighbors would like a four way stop sign.

Downtown – Judy Miller: here to learn how to organize. Looking for a list if anyone knows of anything. Will continue to try and organize

South End, Sue Shea – Good turnout for NNO. Started late and fire and police came early. Fairy House Tour is September 26 and 27. Neighbors still have issues with the condition of Pleasant Street and are watching the sewage treatment plant on Pierce Island issue.

Spinnaker Point – Margery Andrews: Good NNO larger turnout. They have had a prevalence of skunks, but have neighbors working on ways to control that. Talked about the need for a painted crosswalk at Market Street Extension, as well as the problems for people in motorized wheelchairs.

Peeverly Hill –Marie Kelleher – No sidewalks, but the high school students are still classified as walkers. The neighbors are watching the development of 5 houses off of Peeverly Hill.

Elwyn Park – Cliff Lazenby – Good turnout for NNO. Talked about the need for ward representation, which is being brought up by many people throughout the city.

WAHOO – Kathy Bergeron- OK turnout for NNO. Also started late and police and fire came early, but they came back. Construction is pretty much finished. No other issues.

Atlantic Heights – Cristy Cardoso- Did not have NNO and there was no outcry. Took a year off. Fatigue with people doing the same things. The neighbors are getting together a Centennial Committee – Hoping to get excitement around that.

Margery Andrews made a motion to adjourn
Cliff Lazenby seconded the motion, all in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:25.