

City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force
Remote meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, December 2, 2020, 2:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:00. Deputy City Manager Nancy Colbert Puff represented the City staff. Patience Horton took minutes. This 26th 2020 Citizen Response Task Force meeting lasted twenty-five minutes. Votes were taken with a show of hands.

Task Force present:

1. James Petersen, Petersen Engineering, Co-Chair
2. Mark Stebbins, ProCon Construction, Co-Chair
3. Deborah Anthony, Gather Pantry Market (Non-profit)
4. Kim McNamara, Health Officer
5. Alan Gold, Economic Development Commission
6. Ann Birner, PharmD (Health Care Professional)
7. Sarah Lachance, Economic Development Commission
8. Jim Lee, REMAX Shoreline (Real Estate)
9. Russ Grazier, PMAC (Non-profit)
10. Kathryn Lynch, (Non-profit Health-care Organization)
11. Martha Fuller Clark, NH State Senate District 21
12. Valerie Rochon, President, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

Task Force absent:

13. Karen Bouffard, The Real Estate Market, Inc. (Real Estate)
14. Bianca Monteiro, York Pulmonary Associates (Health Care Professional)
15. Karen Conard, City Manager
16. John Golumb, Poco's Bow Street Cantina (Restaurant)
17. Jeffrey Goss, The Clipper Tavern (Restaurant)
18. Joe Scarlotto (Restaurant)

City Staff present:

1. Nancy Colbert Puff, Deputy City Manager
2. Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer
3. Joe Almeida, Facilities Manager
4. Patrick Howe, Deputy Fire Chief
5. Kristin Shaw, Deputy Health Officer
6. Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Director

Also present was:

1. Rich DiPentima

I. Welcome & Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes

- Motion: Alan Gold moved to approve the November 10, 2020; Minutes as amended. The secretary had made proofreading errors. Kathie Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

James Petersen: The City Council is going through the process of reupping us. We are on their agenda for next Monday, December 7. Over the last couple of Task Force meetings, we have created a list of recommendations which the councilors will have in their packets to review prior to the meeting. That includes the original charge and a history of the milestones the Task Force has made. There is a range of possibilities for us after December 31, but we don't want to speculate how it might be different.

II. Streets Use Subcommittee Report

Nancy Colbert Puff: Most of the on-street barriers have been removed. So far, Tuscan, Popovers, Burger Bar, Row 34, Cava, Dwyer's Pub, Raleigh Wine Bar, and Bridge Street all seem to want to continue their seating through the end of December, in concert with the Council's vote. We have communicated with all the businesses that, if we do have a snow event, people have to move tables and chairs out of the way and as close to their buildings as possible so DPW can clear the sidewalks.

III. Health Subcommittee Report

CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES December 2, 2020 By Ann Birner

The subcommittee did not meet last week but did distribute a weekly dashboard. Unless there are questions about that dashboard, only this week's will be discussed. As a reminder, approaches to positivity calculations and varying methodologies can produce different results. To best follow for trends, look at the same data sources from week to week. An additional confounder this past week (and showing on today's dashboard) could be the Thanksgiving holiday, which may have influenced testing and reporting schedules.

State and county cases and NH hospitalizations continue to rise. Portsmouth case data were not available last week. All counties of NH show "substantial" community transmission. The 14-day/3 state summaries show evidence of a Thanksgiving "gap" where approaches to testing and reporting may have fluctuated throughout the holiday weekend. NH and MA are designated as having "uncontrolled spread" and ME as "trending poorly". At the bottom of the dashboard, an apparent downturn in the 7-day rolling average in NH cases should not be considered a

turning point until and unless it continues in that direction, especially given the timing with respect to the holiday. The national map looks simply dreadful.

Senator Fuller Clark stated that she has not been able to reach the Governor to discuss communication from DHHS to the City Health Department. Improved communication would support better local contact tracing. The Senator will follow up via an alternative route, possibly with the Health Commissioner. The HSC meeting notes describe other discussions without action items that will not be detailed here in the interest of time.

Submitted by Ann Birner

In Other Business

Martha Fuller Clark hoped that two-way traffic would return to Fleet Street. Shutting it down to one-way helped the Franklin Oyster House but had a negative impact on Gilly's. Nancy Colbert Puff replied that all the barriers had been removed this morning.

Adjourn

- Motion: Martha Fuller Clark moved to adjourn. Sarah Lachance seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The time was 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Patience G. Horton,
Recording Secretary