

**Minutes for the April 28th, 2021 meeting of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to
Reopen Portsmouth 2021**

MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and read the following declaration: Per NH RSA 91-A: 2, III (b) the Chair has declared the COVID-19 outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

ROLL CALL: Member Present: Co-Chair James Petersen, Co-Chair Mark Stebbins, Alan Gold, Anne Weidman, Jim Lee, John Akar, John Golumb, Karen Bouffard, Kathie Lynch, Martha Fuller Clark, Valerie Rochon, Karen Conard, Kim McNamara, Petra Huda, Ben VanCamp

Members absent: Ann Birner, Deborah Anthony, Jeff Goss

HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE: Vaccine rates are way up. Rates of infection nearing 5% mark. Older people vaccinated. Concerns about significant number skipping second dose of two dose vaccines. Studies have reinforced that outdoors is safer for all.

PORTSMOUTH: No new permits for outdoor dining, finalizing final 4 applications for approval. Tuscan Market outdoor seating request denied by city council. Our outdoor seating compares favorably to Portland, ME. Martha Fuller Clark noted that barriers on Penhallow St. not painted, city manager will follow up. Fleet St. Closure impacting Gilly's, Senator Clark suggested realigning tables at outdoor dining to re-open that section of Fleet St., city manager will investigate.

RESTAURANTS: Valerie Rochon: Discussed impact of state mask guidelines. John Golumb discussed impact on restaurant community. City health department is monitoring closely and making changes as data supports. Martha Fuller Clark asked if city would modify current mask mandate based on CDC new recommendations. Kim McNamara observed many young workers in city from adjoining states and not vaccinated. No mandates after August.

STREETS: Anne Weidman showed video of production line for planter construction, may be ahead of schedule. Discussions for fall plants in planters.

STREET CLOSURE: Martha Fuller Clark continues to advocate for closing Pleasant St. from Porter to Market Square, talking with residents for consensus.

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MISSION: Assistant mayor asked if the Blue Ribbon Committee could expand its current duties. That will be the mayor's decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion to adjourn by Martha Fuller Clark, seconded by John Golumb, Roll call vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lee, Acting Secretary