

**DRAFT**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

December 1, 2023 8:00 AM- 9:30 AM

**Members Present:** Chair Phil Cohen, Vice Chair Tom Watson, Bob Marchewka, Sarah Lachance, Andrew Ward, Jacob Lahoux, Ben VanCamp, City Councilor Vince Lombardi, Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley

**Absent:** City Manager Karen Conard, Anna Howard, Jen Scumaci, Everett Eaton

**City Staff:** Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development Sean Clancy

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*Chair Cohen* called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the November 3rd meeting with no changes made by *Commissioner Lachance*, seconded by *Assistant Mayor Kelley*, passed unanimously.

Chamber Collaborative Updates:

- Reminders - Shop & Stroll on Saturday (12/2) night from 7 – 9pm , please join us and support our downtown retailers this season.
- Also, the Workforce Workshop is on Tuesday, 12/5 from 8 – 10 at Seacoast Rep. Registration is at [www.portsmouthcollaborative.org/workforce](http://www.portsmouthcollaborative.org/workforce).
- I would also encourage you to reserve the morning of Thursday, January 11 from 8:30 – 10 for the Arts Means Business presentation of the AFTA economic impact study. This presentation will share the economic impact of the local non-profit arts organizations, spoiler alert, it's a big economic driver.

Davide Choate and Kriste Russell from Colliers International a Q3 2023 Commercial Real Estate market update which included quarter to quarter and year to year comparisons. (presentation attached)

The Portsmouth High School Center for Technical Education provided breakfast (culinary students) and the EDC heard presentations from the Culinary, Health Sciences, Automotive Architectural, Film Studies and Business student representatives. The student did a great job describing their experiences connecting with the community and employers and shared this education and career goals.

There was no Public Comment

Next Meeting(s) January 5th and Annual Retreat, January 19th.

Motion to adjourn made by *Assistant Mayor Kelley*, seconded by *Councilor Lombardi*, motion passed.

Submitted by,

*Sean Clancy*

Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development