



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room A  
City Hall Complex, 1 Junkins Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** - 10:03 a.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Councilor Kate Cook, Councilor Vincent Lombardi, Councilor John Tabor all present. Also present was the City Of Counsel, Robert P. Sullivan, and Legal Administrator II, Synthia M. Ravell.
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes** – Councilor Tabor moved to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes. Councilor Lombardi seconded. All in favor.
4. **Old Business**

**a. Conflict of Interest**

Guest speaker, Thomas Nies, Executive Director of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), joined the meeting. Councilor Cook invited Mr. Nies to discuss conflict of interest and how it is handled at the NEFMC. The Committee and public were invited to visit the NEFMC’s webpage at [www.NEFMC.org](http://www.NEFMC.org) and check out the information provided, including their About Us page and review the bios and financials of its Committee members under the Council page.

Councilor Cook, with input from Councilors Tabor and Lombardi as well as Attorney Sullivan, discussed Section 1.802 Conflict of Interest as currently set out in the City’s ordinance. Councilor Cook asked Mr. Nies to provide input on various issues surrounding this subject as currently set out in the City’s ordinance. Mr. Nies provided input and stated that he would highlight his insights and perspectives in a letter to the Committee. The Chair, Councilor Cook, as well as the other Members of the Committee thanked Mr. Nies for his time and input at this meeting and look forward to his correspondence as noted.

Further discussion was had among the Committee members and Attorney Sullivan regarding sections of Section 1.802 Conflict of Interest.

**b. Administrative Ordinance – Committee/Language Clean-Up**

Discussion moved to cleaning up the language as currently laid out in Article III – Boards, including the definitions of appointments and terms as established by State

law, procedures, policies, and how to move forward with the goals related to this topic.

**c. BR Committee Conversions Update**

Councilor Cook reviewed her list of Mayor Blue Ribbon Committees to become more permanent, including, but not limited to, Sustainable Practices, Arts and Nonprofits, African Burying Ground Stewardship, Citywide Neighborhood, and Sister City.

Councilor Cook noted that she will reach out to Assistant Mayor Kelley to discuss the interest of the African Burying Ground Stewardship and Sister City Blue Ribbon Committees of their interest in becoming a permanent Committee.

Councilor Tabor is on the Citywide Neighborhood Committee and will discuss with this Committee their interest in becoming a permanent Committee.

**d. Parks Update**

Councilor Cook stated that she will set up another meeting to occur in early May to discuss this subject.

**5. Public Comment:** No public comment.

**6. Announcements**

**a. Current Committee Schedule**

- Conflict of Interest, BR Committee Conversions – April 24

Councilor Cook asked for motion to adjourn. Councilor Tabor so moved. Councilor Lombardi seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by  
Synthia M. Ravell, Legal Administrator II

Minutes Approved: April 24, 2023