

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PORTSMOUTH CABLE AND BROADBAND INTERNET COMMISSION



## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.  
Conference Room A, City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Attendees in Person: Rob Capone, Chair (Capone); Luis Rodriguez (Rodriguez); Jeff Abrams (Abrams); and Gary Lowe (Lowe); Amrishi Chicooree (Chicooree)

Staff: Suzanne M. Woodland, Regulatory Counsel (Regulatory Counsel Woodland); Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer (Seacord)

Public: Jim Wilson, Portsmouth, NH

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. **Approval of the minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting:** Regulatory Counsel Woodland advised that Chicooree suggested rewording the language which stated that the "effect of water on cell service is too good" to "water is not good since water negatively effects cell signals because it can reflect the frack and absorb radio waves." This would make clearer that water presents challenges to cell service. **Motion** by Rodriguez to accept the minutes of October 1, 2025 minutes with an amendment as described. Capone seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- III. **Follow-up from discussion with Verizon representatives:** Regulatory Counsel Woodland reported back on the conversation with Verizon regarding installing cell service at the water tower on Constitution Avenue. She provided details on the restriction on the City property where the water tower is situated which currently limits the use of the property to only the water tower. Rodriguez stated that the Commission should speak with other carriers and if all the carriers view that placing a cell tower in this location would be beneficial to improve cell service in the area, that the Commission could discuss in nonpublic regarding the legal aspects of the restriction, options and contractual relations. Regulatory Counsel Woodland will obtain information to discuss it in more detail at the next meeting.
- IV. **Update of cell phone service survey to business:** Seacord advised that she followed up with Chamber of Commerce and they offered to include the survey information and link in their bi-weekly newsletter. Four (4) responses were received from businesses (out of 3,000 membership). Economic Development sent the survey information out to their 1,500 distribution and 25 responses were received. The Commission felt this was a disappointing return. Seacord stated

that spam filters often block email blasts. Regulatory Counsel offered to try other alternatives methods of communications to reach the population for their input. Rodriguez stated that he did not see any point in putting in any more effort at this time.

- V. **Other Business:** Regulatory Counsel stated that she, along with Seacord's assistance, drafted some language to update the Commission's webpage. This included information from Verizon on how people can reach them to get assistance with issues and background on the Commission.
- VI. **Public Comment:** Jim Wilson stated that he attended the Master Plan meeting and asked what the City's plan was for digital infrastructure and found that was not any. He found information regarding the Cable and Broadband Internet Commission on the City's website, which was the reason for his attendance and believes that the City should plan its digital future, the same way it does water, sewer and roads. Regulatory Counsel Woodland and the Commission provided Mr. Wilson with the history and overview of the Commission and history of the attempt to explore community broadband in Portsmouth. Mr. Wilson provided an overview of his background and experience. The Commission invited Mr. Wilson to share his thoughts and ideas with them, to attend the next meeting and to consider applying as an alternate of the Commission.
- VII. **Schedule the next meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for December 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
- VIII. **Adjournment: Motion** by Lowe, seconded by Rodriguez to adjourn meeting. All in favor, the motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Prepared by: Barbara Zulkiewicz

Approved on: December 10, 2025