

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PORTSMOUTH, NH
DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025 TIME: 7:00PM

Members of the public also have the option to join the meeting over Zoom, a unique meeting ID and password will be provided once you register. To register, click on the link below or copy and paste this into your web browser

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0nHpni8Rmi5OpvManYN5A

6:00PM – ANTICIPATED NON-PUBLIC SESSION IS BEING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM A IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 91-A:3, I (d), (l)

AGENDA

- I. WORK SESSION
- II. PUBLIC DIALOGUE SESSION [when applicable – every other regularly scheduled meeting]
- III. CALL TO ORDER [7:00 p.m. or thereafter]
- IV. ROLL CALL
- V. INVOCATION
- VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE



- VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2025
- VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. *NH Building Officials Association Code Official of the Year – Shanti Wolph
 2. Safe Water Advisory Group Report
 3. Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee 2024-2025 Year-End Report
 4. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Affordable Housing 2024-2025 Report
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION *(This session shall not exceed 45 minutes) – (participation may be in person or via Zoom)*
- X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS
(There are no items under this section of the agenda this evening)
- XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION
 - A. CITY MANAGER CONARD
City Manager's Items Which Require Action:
 1. Approval of Police Proposed Memorandum of Agreement

2. Resident Access Parking Program Policy Approval
3. Access Easement for Water Services for Property Located at 921 Islington Street
4. Access Easements for Water Services for Property Located at 361 Hanover Street

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Annie Zampitella, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and Conventures, Inc., requesting permission to hold the 2026 Seacoast Cancer 5K on Sunday, September 20, 2026 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- B. Letter from Maria Stephanou, Alzheimer's Association, requesting permission to hold the 2026 Annual Seacoast Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday, October 25, 2026 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- C. Letter from Jenna Raizes, Portsmouth Little League, requesting permission to install temporary signage at the Plains, Hislop, and Central Fields for the 2026 baseball season (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- D. Letter from Jenna Raizes, Portsmouth Little League, requesting permission to install registration-promotion signage at Central and Plains Fields until March 15, 2026 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)

XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email Correspondence (***Sample motion – move to accept and place on file***)
- B. Letter from Caleb & Samantha Ginsberg, New Hampshire Soccer Club, LLC requesting permission to Host World Cup Watch Party on Pleasant Street with Street Closure Friday, June 12, 2026

XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN

1. Acceptance of Resignation:
 - Mandela Pruett from the Arts and Cultural Commission (***Sample motion – move to accept with regret the resignation of Mandela Pruett from the Arts and Cultural Commission***)
2. *Appointments to be Voted:
 - Appointment of Robert P. Sullivan as a Regular Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
 - Appointment of Mike Lucas as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY

1. End of Term Update of African Burying Ground Memorial Park Stewardship Committee

B. COUNCILOR COOK

1. *Report Back from Governance Committee (***Sample motion – move to sunset the Governance Committee***)

C. COUNCILOR BAGLEY

1. Parking & Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of December 4, 2025 (***Sample motion - move to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the December 4, 2025, Parking & Traffic Safety Committee meeting***)

XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

(There are no items under this section of the agenda this evening)

XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. *Update on Tax Bill Status

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

XIX. ADJOURNMENT [at 10:30 p.m. or earlier]

**Indicates verbal report*

**KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Denton, Bagley, and Moreau

Absent: Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Blalock and Lombardi

III. INVOCATION

Mayor McEachern asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Clerk Barnaby led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

V. CANVASS OF THE VOTE OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Mayor McEachern said we are here this evening to Canvass the Vote of the November 4, 2025, Municipal Election. He extended his congratulations to all candidates that were elected and thanked City Clerk Barnaby and her team as well as all of the election officials for their outstanding work on the election.

Councilor Moreau moved to approve and accept the November 4, 2025 Municipal Election Results as presented by City Clerk Barnaby. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

The following positions were elected:

City Council 2 year term

Mayor Deaglan McEachern

Assistant Mayor JoAnna "Jo" Kelley

Councilor Kate Cook

Councilor John Tabor

Councilor Rich Blalock

Councilor Andrew Bagley

Councilor Beth Moreau

Councilor Michelle Flynn

Councilor Annie Hopkins

School Board 4 year term

Lisa Rapaport
Steve Adler
Nancy Novelline Clayburg
Brian French
Jennifer Shump

Fire Commission 4 year term

Richard Gamester
Jennifer Mosher-Matthes

Police Commission 4 year term

Buzz Scherr
Jay Lieberman

Ward Moderators 2 year term

Brian Gibb – Ward 1
Catherine Moran – Ward 2
Joan L. Hamblet – Ward 3
Sarah Lachance – Ward 4
Katie Kiernan Marble – Ward 5

Ward Clerks 2 year term

Lisa Bellanti – Ward 1
Juliet Grant – Ward 2
Damon Thomas – Ward 3
L. Cliff Lazenby – Ward 4
Kimberly Meuse – Ward 5

Ward Selectmen 2 year term

Arthur Carakatsane, Jennifer Merriam, and Janet Phelps – Ward 1
William McClure, Whitney Swaim, and Marie Wood – Ward 2
Elaine Apatang-Butts, Leslie A. Cartier, and Kevin Perkins – Ward 3
Amy Abbott, Amy-Mae Court, and Patrick Ellis – Ward 4
Wendi Alip, Paul O'Connor, and Parker Rice – Ward 5

Registrar of Voters 2 year term

Penny Reynolds – Ward 1
Candace Thayer – Ward 2
Angelynne Hinson – Ward 3
Marcia Main – Ward 4
Kathleen Boduch – Ward 5

Registrar of Voters At Large 2 year term

Barbara Ward

Question 1: - SOCIAL DISTRICTS in Portsmouth

Yes 2,531
No 3,210

Question 2 – KENO in Portsmouth

Yes 3,759
No 2,213

Question 3 – GAMES OF CHANCE in Portsmouth

Yes 4,187
No 1,740

City-Wide Statistics

Registered Voters	17,228
New Registered Voters	170
Total Registered Voters	17,398
Ballots Cast	6,207
Percentage Voted	35.68%

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:07 p.m., Councilor Moreau moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.



KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK

Safe Water Advisory Group

City Council Report 12/15/2025

The Safe Water Advisory Group (SWAG) has prepared the following summary report highlighting the group's accomplishments over the past two years.

Specific items for consideration by City Council are as follows:

1. Reinstatement of the SWAG for a two-year term ending on December 31, 2027
2. Approval of the following revised mission statement. Additional information regarding this change is provided on pages 7 and 8.

To review and communicate the latest science on the health and environmental effects of PFAS, to monitor federal and state level legislative changes, and to anticipate policy changes that could impact the City of Portsmouth. To discuss topics relevant to the City's drinking water quantity, water quality, preservation and conservation efforts, and water infrastructure projects. To discuss public health aspects of water quality, support and provide public education about drinking water topics, and take proactive stances to protect and conserve water quality and quantity.

3. Adjustment of the number of community members from four to five to allow increased community involvement.
4. **Request that the Mayor please consider the** appointment of the following members to the SWAG.

City Councilors: **as assigned by the Mayor**

Community Members: **Andrea Amico, Katrie Hillman, Rich DiPentima, Daniel Finan**

City of Portsmouth Fire Department: **William McQuillen**

City of Portsmouth Water Department: **Al Pratt**

City of Portsmouth Health Department: **Kim McNamara**

City of Portsmouth School Board: **as nominated by the School Board Chair**

Environmental Scientist: **Dr. Laurel Schaidler**

NH State Representative: **David Meuse**

NH State Senator: **Rebecca Perkins Kwoka**

SWAG Recommendations to Portsmouth City Council in 2025:

- The SWAG will continue to monitor and report on developments regarding contaminants of emerging concern and discuss advanced PFAS testing opportunities to get ahead of additional PFAS that may be in the water that is not currently tested for by EPA methods.
- The SWAG will continue to monitor legislation at State & Federal levels that will help address water quality issues in the City and support with testimony on legislation that is pertinent to the City and community, as may be requested.
- The SWAG will continue to monitor developments and advances in the science related to PFPrA and other emerging PFAS chemicals detected in the City drinking water.
- The SWAG will continue to monitor the lead testing and remediation efforts at the Portsmouth School Department.
- The SWAG will continue to endorse the City's design and construction of the Greenland Well treatment system and preliminary designs of PFAS treatment for the Collins and Portsmouth wells to comply with EPA MCLs for PFAS.
- The SWAG will continue to support the City's ongoing discussions with the Air Force to pursue reimbursement for PFAS related treatment for the Portsmouth and Collins wells as they are the responsible party.
- The SWAG continues to recommend that the City consider providing alternative disposal options of PFAS-containing items (e.g., water filters at their end life, Teflon pans, etc).
- The SWAG encourages the City to continue to be engaged on developments at the Pease Tradeport that could potentially have impacts to wetlands and the drinking water.
- The SWAG continues to support funding for free lead water testing to residents as this is a valuable service to our residents in a city with old housing stock and documented exposure to some residents in the City.
- The SWAG strongly recommends the City participate in testing opportunities for emerging contaminants and contaminants of concern - especially when no

cost to the City - to better understand what contaminants may be in the water supply.

- The SWAG supports the City's efforts to identify and purchase conservation easements on land around the Bellamy Reservoir and within its watershed to ensure long term protection of the City's largest drinking water supply.
- The SWAG promotes City's Cyanobacteria monitoring at the Bellamy Reservoir and the collaboration with NHDES and their consultants to develop the best approach to cyanobacteria and cyanotoxin management.
- The SWAG recommends the City continue to request routine updates from the City of Dover regarding their monitoring and remediation efforts of the Southern Plume of the Tolend Road Landfill/Dover Municipal Landfill to ensure contamination from the landfill does not negatively affect the Bellamy Reservoir water quality.

Update on the SWAG Recommendations to Portsmouth City Council in 2021 – UPDATES IN BLUE:

- City of Portsmouth needs to improve community education on PFAS and other contaminants of concern (e.g., lead) and on safe disposal of PFAS-containing items (e.g., water filters at their end life, Teflon pans, etc). **Partially completed with the Community Drinking Water forum in May 2022 and outreach on lead awareness and testing done by SWAG members in 2023. Still need to research opportunities for safe disposal of PFAS containing items for City residents.**

Though not directly related to the City's drinking water system's water quality, some members of the committee had the following recommendations:

- The SWAG should discuss the potential impacts on drinking water from Coakley Landfill in more depth at future meetings. **Not completed but included as part of the Coakley Landfill Group's work. Information on the ongoing work and meetings is located on the City's website at:**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/legal/coakley-landfill>

- City of Portsmouth should conduct additional and more comprehensive PFAS testing of the new artificial turf at Community Campus. If PFAS are detected in the turf, additional PFAS testing of water running off the turf should be routinely tested for PFAS to monitor for leaching into the surrounding wetlands and storm water. **Partially completed in 2022 when the City paid for additional PFAS testing of the Community Campus artificial turf and PFAS was detected in the turf. No additional PFAS testing of water runoff from the turf, surrounding wetlands, or storm water drainage system has been conducted and the environmental impacts of the turf to the surrounding area, including wetlands, are currently unknown.**

SWAG Recommendations to Portsmouth City Council in 2023:

UPDATES IN BLUE:

- The SWAG to be reinstated in 2024 by the City Council - plan for quarterly meetings, scheduled in advance. DPW will continue to provide quarterly updates on water quantity, water quality, ongoing City projects pertaining to drinking water and water conservation, and updates and progress on master planning to the SWAG as well as keep that information on their website, in the annual drinking water quality report, and other documents. **Completed 2024-2025.**
- The SWAG will continue to monitor developments regarding contaminants of emerging concern and discuss advanced PFAS testing opportunities to get ahead of additional PFAS that may be in the water that is not currently tested for by EPA methods. **Ongoing**
- The SWAG will continue to monitor for legislation at the State & Federal level that will help address water quality issues in the City. City staff and SWAG members should testify at State hearings on water contamination legislation that is pertinent to the City and community. **Ongoing**
- The City will continue with design and construction of the Greenland Well treatment system and preliminary designs of PFAS treatment for the Collins, and Portsmouth wells in preparation of pending EPA MCLs for PFAS with those updates being provided to the SWAG. **Ongoing**
- The SWAG will continue to monitor developments and advancing of the science related to PFPrA and other emerging PFAS chemicals detected in the City drinking water. **Ongoing (no new updates this term).**

- The SWAG will continue to monitor the lead testing and remediation efforts at the Portsmouth School Department. **Ongoing**
- City of Portsmouth to consider providing alternative disposal options of PFAS-containing items (e.g., water filters at their end life, Teflon pans, etc). **Not completed**
- City of Portsmouth should continue to stay engaged on the Million Air project at Pease and encourage the PDA to host a community meeting on the status of the project, the impact to wetlands, the protections put in place to prevent water contamination, the protocols to address potential spills or leaks, and allow community Q&A with PDA and key project stakeholders. **No longer applicable.**
- City Council should consider funding additional free lead water testing to residents once the initial \$2500 is exhausted as this is a valuable service to our residents in a city with old housing stock and documented exposure to some residents in the City. **Completed in 2024.**
- City of Portsmouth should be willing to participate in testing opportunities for emerging contaminants and contaminants of concern - especially when no cost to the City - to better understand what contaminants may be in the water supply. **Ongoing, no free testing options offered in 2024-2025.**

Though not directly related to the City's drinking water system's water quality, some members of the committee had the following recommendations:

- The SWAG should discuss the potential impacts on drinking water from Coakley Landfill in more depth at future meetings. **Not completed but included as part of the Coakley Landfill Group's work. Information on the ongoing work and meetings is located on the City's website at:**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/legal/coakley-landfill>

- City of Portsmouth should conduct routine PFAS testing of water running off the artificial turf fields to determine if there are environmental impacts to the surrounding wetlands and storm water drainage system. **Not conducted. Testing was not recommended by the City due to the complexity of collecting representative samples, concerns of cross-contamination, and costs.**

Background:

The City of Portsmouth Safe Water Advisory Group (SWAG) was approved by the Portsmouth City Council on October 5, 2020 “as an advisory group related to Safe Drinking Water”. The mission of the SWAG is to review and communicate the latest science on the health and environmental effects of drinking water contaminants (with a heavy focus on PFAS), to monitor federal and state level legislative changes, and to anticipate policy changes that could impact the city of Portsmouth. It is important to note that SWAG meetings have consistently covered topics on the City’s water quantity, quality, preservation and conservation efforts, and projects pertaining to the water master planning through the City’s annual Capital Improvement Plan process and other engineering studies.

The SWAG has two co-chairs, Al Pratt (City of Portsmouth Water Resource Director) and Andrea Amico (Portsmouth resident and PFAS community leader), leading the group in setting agendas, organizing meeting content and speakers, and facilitating the meetings. The City of Portsmouth maintains a website for the SWAG with reference documents, meeting minutes, meeting presentations, videos of meetings, membership, and more. Since the SWAG formed, they have met quarterly each year.

Membership:

The SWAG membership consists of representatives from the Portsmouth City Council, NH State Legislature, City of Portsmouth staff (DPW, Fire Department, and Health Department), Portsmouth School Board, Portsmouth residents, and an environmental scientist. The SWAG’s current membership consists of the following members:

City Councilors: **Richard Blalock, Vincent Lombardi**

Community Members: **Andrea Amico, Katrie Hillman, Rich DiPentima**

City of Portsmouth Fire Department: **William McQuillen**

City of Portsmouth Water Department: **Al Pratt**

City of Portsmouth Health Department: **Kim McNamara**

City of Portsmouth School Board: **Genevieve Becksted-Muske**

Environmental Scientist: **Dr. Laurel Schaidler**

NH State Representative: **David Meuse**

NH State Senator: **Rebecca Perkins Kwoka**

The SWAG had three changes in membership in 2024-2025:

Deputy DPW Director and SWAG co-chair Brian Goetz resigned from the SWAG in September 2024 after resigning from the City of Portsmouth. City of Portsmouth Water Resource Manager, Al Pratt, replaced Brian's position on the SWAG as co-chair.

School Board member Elizabeth Barrett resigned from the SWAG in May 2025. School Board member Genevieve Becksted Muske joined the SWAG to represent the Portsmouth School Board.

City of Portsmouth resident Jim Hewitt resigned from the SWAG in September 2025. Two Portsmouth residents - Daniel Finan and Shan Zudeima - submitted applications with the City Clerk's office for the Mayor's consideration of becoming a SWAG member. Daniel Finan was approved by the Mayor in December 2025 to join the SWAG.

City staff, Mason Caceres, Assistant Water Resource Manager, and Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer, attended meetings regularly and provided water quality data and information to the group.

Notable Updates from 2024-2025:

Mission Update:

The SWAG's initial mission statement drafted in October of 2020 is outdated and not reflective of the work and topics the SWAG routinely covers. The initial mission was heavily focused on PFAS and while the SWAG regularly discusses PFAS at every meeting, the SWAG also discusses other pertinent drinking water topics. The SWAG discussed many times about revising our mission to be consistent with the work we are doing. SWAG members provided feedback at several meetings on the language of a new mission. At the October 7, 2025, SWAG meeting, SWAG members unanimously voted to recommend a revised mission to the Portsmouth City Council in our end of year summary for consideration of the next SWAG term to commence in 2026.

Current mission (established October 2020):

To review and communicate the latest science on the health and environmental effects of PFAS, to monitor federal and state level legislative changes, and to anticipate policy changes that could impact the city of Portsmouth.

Revised mission (proposed) (approved by the SWAG October 2025):

To review and communicate the latest science on the health and environmental effects of PFAS, to monitor federal and state level legislative changes, and to anticipate policy changes that could impact the City of Portsmouth. To discuss

topics relevant to the City's drinking water quantity, water quality, preservation and conservation efforts, and water infrastructure projects. To discuss public health aspects of water quality, support and provide public education about drinking water topics, and take proactive stances to protect and conserve water quality and quantity.

Changes in federal PFAS regulations:

There have been multiple updates to federal PFAS regulations in 2024-2025 that are notable and directly impact the City of Portsmouth:

- On April 10, 2024, the United States Environmental Agency (US EPA) finalized drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for 6 PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (also known as "GenX Chemicals")). Water systems were required to come into compliance with the PFAS MCLs by 2029. EPA stated in their press release that "The final rule will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses." The press release also says: "EPA estimates that between about 6% and 10% of the 66,000 public drinking water systems subject to this rule may have to take action to reduce PFAS to meet these new standards. All public water systems have three years to complete their initial monitoring for these chemicals. They must inform the public of the level of PFAS measured in their drinking water. Where PFAS is found at levels that exceed these standards, systems must implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water within five years."
- In June 2024, these 6 PFAS standards were challenged in court and the EPA was sued by the American Chemistry Council, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Water Works Association along with public water utility associations citing "serious questions about EPA's process for developing the final rule, and whether it is consistent with the statutory requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act."
- On September 3, 2024, the Department of Defense issued a policy in response to the EPA PFAS MCLs stating "to ensure cleanup begins as quickly as possible, the DoD Components will initiate removal actions to address private drinking water wells impacted by PFAS from DoD activities where concentrations are known to be at or above three times the MCL values".
- On September 11, 2025, the EPA filed a motion in court that it would only defend two of the six PFAS standards (PFOS & PFOA). Also, EPA announced that it will seek to extend the compliance deadline for PFOA and PFOS standards by two years from 2029 to 2031.

These new federal PFAS regulations impact the Greenland well of the City water supply where known PFAS have been detected. Knowing these federal PFAS regulations were imminent, the City of Portsmouth was proactive in obtaining funding for the design and treatment of the Greenland well to address PFAS. The SWAG has received frequent updates on this project at their meetings. The status of the City's efforts to address PFAS in the Greenland well is:

- Preliminary design near completion
- Granular Activated Carbon
- New building needed
- Road and power upgrades required
- Proceeding with final design

The Portsmouth and the Collins well are City of Portsmouth groundwater wells that supply drinking water to the City. These wells are located in the Southern well field close to the Pease Tradeport/former Pease Air Force Base where there has been significant PFAS contamination. The Portsmouth and Collins wells have detectable levels of PFAS in them that exceed the new EPA PFAS MCLs. The Air Force has acknowledged the PFAS in the Portsmouth and Collins well came from Pease and they are responsible for the remediation of these wells. In response to the EPA MCLs being finalized in April 2024, the DoD issued a policy on September 4, 2024, that it would address wells that were 3 times above the PFAS MCLs first (taking a “worst first” approach). The Portsmouth and Collins wells exceed the EPA MCLs for PFAS, but they are not three times above the MCLs at this time. Therefore, no formal action has been taken by the Air Force to address these wells. The City of Portsmouth has routine discussions with the Air Force re: the plan for implementing treatment of these wells. The status of the City’s efforts to address PFAS in the Portsmouth and Collins wells are:

- Preliminary design near completion
- Water from wells be combined for treatment at one facility
- Granular Activated Carbon will be the media used to filter PFAS
- Provisions for additional treatment incorporated in design
- Submit Preliminary Design and cost estimate to Air Force

In addition to federal drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS, the state of New Hampshire also has PFAS MCLs for 4 PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, and PFHxS). The federal standards for PFOA (4 parts per trillion or ppt) and PFOS (4 ppt) are lower than the NH PFAS MCLs for PFOA (12 ppt) and PFOS (15 ppt), therefore the federal standards apply to the City drinking water for these two PFAS. However, having NH PFAS MCLs for 2 additional PFAS that do not have federal regulations (PFNA 11 ppt, PFHxS 18 ppt), the NH MCLs applies to the City. The NH PFAS MCLs have been in place since 2020 and the City of Portsmouth has been in compliance with those standards since that time.

City obtains conservation easement near Bellamy Reservoir:

On June 4, 2025, the City of Portsmouth partnered with Southeast Land Trust of NH (SELT) to purchase a conservation easement on 44.6 acres adjacent to the Bellamy Reservoir. This is significant because the Bellamy Reservoir is the largest water supply for the City of Portsmouth water system. It is critical to protect the land around the Bellamy Reservoir from development to prevent contamination or potential threats to the water supply. The City has purchased other easements adjacent to the Bellamy Reservoir, including 72 acres secured in 2018 and 107 acres secured in 2020. All of these easements were obtained through the combined efforts of the city, SELT, and the

Town of Madbury. The combined efforts allowed the city to apply for and receive a \$739,000 grant from the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and \$25,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services Local Source Water Protection program. The city also received \$714,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending thanks to a request from Senator Shaheen which is being administered through the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Cyanobacteria:

At the September 10, 2024, SWAG meeting, City of Portsmouth Water Quality Specialist, Mariah Habershaw, provided an update on the City's efforts to test for and monitor Cyanobacteria.

In 2023, a small bloom accumulated near the dam of the Bellamy Reservoir. The City notified NHDES and collected samples for enumeration and cyanotoxin testing on the day of sighting. Identified species as Dolichiospermum (formerly Anabaena). Results: 22,000 cells/mL of cyanobacteria in raw water (>70,000cells/mL is the recreational advisory limit). Cyanotoxins= non-detect in raw water.

In 2024, the City observed "pea-soup" in the Bellamy Reservoir that began to accumulate near the intake but never directly in front of it. Testing identified species again as Dolichiospermum (Anabaena). Samples collected from intake at 6ft. depth, raw water intake at plant, and finish water for cyanotoxin testing (overnight) at accredited lab. Results: Cyanotoxins: non-detect.

In 2025, the City observed small, scattered blooms observed in June through late August with minimal accumulation and very low phycocyanin concentrations, as well as cell counts. There was a more noticeable, dense bloom on July 28th that triggered cyanotoxin testing in the raw water. Identified species: Dolichiospermum and Woronichinia, Phycocyanin: 30.78 ug/L, Cell count: 25,675 cells/mL. Cyanotoxins: non detect.

The City has developed an Operational Response to Cyanobacteria Blooms:

1. Deploy diffusers at intake location to physically push cyanobacteria away from the intake screen
2. Reduce plant flow and increase blend with well water
3. Introduce Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) to head of the plant
4. Increase filter backwash frequency
5. Continue to test for phycocyanin at the start of the treatment facility, DAF basins, and finished water taps
6. Continue sampling for cyanotoxins in Raw water and Finished water until no longer present (every 24 hours)
7. Daily visual observations of reservoir and daily collections for identification, enumeration, and fluorometer readings

The City is collaborating with NHDES and Hazen & Sawyer to assist NH water systems with water treatment optimization. Thirteen water systems throughout NH have

experienced reoccurring cyanobacteria blooms in their surface water supplies. The team is using historical data to learn more about the Bellamy Reservoir to develop the best approach to cyanobacteria and cyanotoxin removal.

Tolend Road Landfill/Dover Municipal Landfill:

On June 18, 2025, representatives from Dover presented an update to the SWAG on the Former Tolend Road Landfill/Dover Municipal Landfill. This landfill is a Superfund site located close to the Bellamy Reservoir (the City of Portsmouth's largest drinking water supply) and has known contamination that has been managed by the Dover Group, NH DES, and US EPA. Representatives from Dover previously presented at a SWAG meeting on March 7, 2023 to educate SWAG members re: a general history of the landfill, identified responsible parties, different focus areas on the landfill site, overview of assessment and remediation activities, information about Southern Plume area, and identified USEPA 2022 – Five Year Review Items.

On June 18, 2025, the representatives from Dover provided an update to the SWAG re: an overview of the Southern Plume, assessment activities, remedial design status, conservation easement. They shared recent sampling at five sample locations showed:

- 1,4-Dioxane Sampling – October 2023 to March 2025 Not Detected (one duplicate at 0.32 ug/L)
- PFAS Sampling - October 2023 to March 2025 not detected or low single digit ng/L. Compounds similar to two tributary background samples.

Dover is in the process of implementing treatment of the Southern Plume. They provided an update that the design is consistent with the Landfill GWE system. It will have 12 extraction well stations, three wells per station (36 total SPEWs) with conveyance to the storage tank near Tolend Road and off-site treatment at POTW.

Drought:

In the Summer and Fall of 2025, New Hampshire experienced moderate to severe drought conditions due to below average precipitation rates. The City of Portsmouth monitored this closely and in August of 2025, the City asked residents to voluntarily limit their outdoor water usage because of ongoing hot and dry conditions. No mandatory restrictions were issued. Groundwater levels were lower than normal, but remained within levels considered adequate to maintain their safe yields. Due to decreased demands for water in the system through early fall and rising water levels in the Bellamy Reservoir, additional water use restrictions were not requested. As of December 2025, the region is still in a moderate drought. If precipitation does not increase through the winter and into the Spring of 2026, the City may have to implement water use restrictions.

Water Master Plan:

Updates on water infrastructure projects were provided during SWAG meetings in 2024 and 2025. These projects included:

- Little Bay Transmission Main - Valve Replacement Project
- Collins Well 2 Testing and Permitting
- Water Storage Tank Painting – Design
- Greenland Well PFAS Treatment Facility – Design
- Hydraulic Model Update
- Smith and Harrison Well Cleaning & Rehabilitation
- Service Line Inventory
- Bellamy Dam Rehabilitation
- Seacoast Reliability Study
- Lafayette Tank & Pressure Study

Lead:

City Council approved \$2,500 to offer free lead testing for Portsmouth water customers in the FY 2024 budget. Of the 69 customers that expressed interest in this program, 35 samples were collected. There were 22 samples with no lead detected, and the remaining levels were all below 5 parts per billion and the EPA action level of 15 ppb.

EPA revised the Lead and Copper Rule for public water systems in 2021 and 2023. One of the new requirements in these revisions includes the requirement for water systems to inventory all of the materials used for the system's service lines, including portions of service lines that are privately owned. The initial inventory was submitted in October 2024, and annual submittals are required until there are no unknown materials in the system and there are no lead or galvanized lines remaining in the system.

Approximately 490 service lines remain in the inventory with unknown material type on the customer side; and there are 2,068 services with an unknown material type on the City-owned portion of the line. Inventory efforts are on-going and a program to assist owners of galvanized service lines is being developed.

The NHDES developed a sampling program where water suppliers can assist customers with sampling for lead from their taps for free. Portsmouth received requests from 205 customers for these tests. Portsmouth Water Division delivered sample bottles to all of these customers, and 129 collected samples. Of these samples, lead was not detected in 113, 15 had detected levels below 1 ppb, and one had 8 ppb.

For the annual lead and copper compliance sampling in 2025, 31 homes served by the Portsmouth Water System were sampled for lead and copper analysis. Of these, 29 samples had no-detection of lead above the laboratory detection limit of 1 part per billion (ppb or ug/L), and only two samples had detected lead concentrations of 1 and 3-ppb. No samples exceeded the 15-ppb action level. The average concentration of

copper found across the same sample set was 0.12 parts per million (ppm or mg/L) and the state-regulated action level for copper in drinking water is 1.3 ppm.

In 2023, lead testing done at the Portsmouth school departments revealed lead detected above the new state standard of 5 parts per billion (ppb) in 41 water outlets throughout the school buildings. Superintendent of the Portsmouth School Department Dr McLaughlin and Ken Linchey (Director of Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance) presented to the SWAG on March 24, 2024 providing an update:

Signage has been posted at all school outlets where lead was detected in 2023 saying “Do Not Drink, Hand-Washing Only”. Follow up lead testing was done in the schools on December 16, 2023 to better understand the reliability of the August 2023 samples. Even though the follow-up testing showed lower numbers, it still showed that lead levels were present. Over Christmas break of 2023, two different types of filtration systems were installed to address lead in the Portsmouth schools. One filtration system was installed in a classroom and one filtration system was installed in a kitchen. Both filtration systems yielded great results based on their application. New fixtures and filtration systems have been purchased and installed at all outlets that registered above 5ppb based on the August 9, 2023 test results. Water bubblers that registered above 5ppb were removed from service. New water bubblers have arrived and will be installed soon and round 3 lead sampling will be conducted in the next couple of weeks.

The School Department was invited back to the SWAG for the December 4, 2025 meeting to provide an update. Ken Linchey (Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Portsmouth School Department) attended the meeting and provided an update that rounds 2 and 3 of the State required lead water testing had been completed as well as post testing after filters were installed at the schools. After the first round of testing in 2023 as required by New Hampshire’s House Bill 1421 (which requires school and childcare facilities to test for lead in drinking water and to act when lead is found at levels at or above five parts per billion), the School Department has replaced several fixtures and installed 19 reverse-osmosis filters throughout schools where lead has been detected (many of them at Little Harbor School). Testing showed 17 outlets at Little Harbor that triggered a filter needed. The School Department has also been installing self-filling water bubbler stations that have filtration. There are currently 36 water bottle filling bubbler stations and these are what students use to fill their water bottles during the day. The students have been trained not to use classroom sinks for drinking and to instead use the water filling bubbler stations located throughout the schools to refill their water bottles. The water filling stations have lights (green, yellow, red) on them to indicate when it is time to change the filter. When the water filling station

turns yellow, the School Department replaces the filters. The School Department keeps plenty of filters readily in stock and the staff and custodians monitor the lights on the water filling stations and put in a work order to change the filter when the light is yellow. One water filling station at New Franklin School did have detectable lead in a water filling station. The school department also reached out to the water filling station manufacturer, Elkay, to inquire why this would be happening. Elkay reported that there is a slight potential, based on where the water filling station is manufactured, that there could be lead in their water filling stations (but could offer no other explanation as to why). As a result of lead being detected at the water filling station at New Franklin, the school department removed the water filling station at New Franklin School with the detectable lead and replaced it with a new water filling station. The School Department is also using canister type filters (cartridge filter with micropores) that go under the sinks that came recommended to them by the Concord School Department and they have seen significant reduction (if not total remediation) in lead with these filters. The School Department said they installed filtration at the Athletic Trainers offices at the Portsmouth High School where students from sports teams and the band would be filling water bottles and large containers of water to stay hydrated during practices and games. Councilor Blalock also confirmed he has heard from the trainer at the high school who was very happy to have filtered water to provide to the students during athletic activities.

As of the December 2025 SWAG meeting, the School Department has fulfilled their obligation with the State to complete 3 rounds of lead testing in the schools. However, the School Department intends to complete a 4th round of testing in the next month or so to do follow up testing one year after they have had their water filtrations to address lead in place. There are still some water outlets in some of the Portsmouth schools that have low lead detections and the School Department continues to monitor those locations. The School Department is also in discussions with the Capitol Improvement Plan re: a long term fix to replace the plumbing in the Portsmouth Schools. Replacing all the pipes in the schools is not a short term or inexpensive solution as it requires opening up walls. The School Department plans to watch for lead sources during school renovations (i.e., New Franklin is going to have renovations soon) to see if anything can be addressed while the renovations are underway. The School Department will also look at contracts with manufacturers as they replace fixtures in the schools to make sure the fixtures are certified to be lead free. The School Department stays in touch with NH DES about the lead testing and remediation efforts at the Portsmouth Schools approximately once a month. Even though the State is not requiring a round 4 of lead testing at the schools, the School Department in good faith will continue to test and monitor lead in the water at the schools to make sure their efforts are working. And if not, then figure out how to redirect their efforts. The SWAG asked about state funding

for this work. The School Department said there is some state funding for reimbursement of the water filters and the water filling stations once they install them, but there is limited state funding for construction projects. The SWAG asked what type of filter media is used in the Elkay stations - Ken was not sure and was going to scan the paperwork from Elkay to share with the SWAG.

Pease Million Air Fuel Farm Project:

Questions and concerns were raised by State Representative David Meuse at the June 7, 2023 SWAG meeting regarding the potential plan of a fuel farm being installed at Pease by the company Million Air. The Newington Selectman also wrote a letter addressed to the PDA and to the Newington residents in June 2023 expressing concerns about the project. It was not an agenda item for that meeting therefore the discussion was brief. A follow up meeting was scheduled on June 27, 2023, with Andrea Amico, Brian Goetz, Al Pratt, Suzanne Woodland, NH State Representative David Meuse, and NH State Representative Robin Vogt at Portsmouth City Hall. The community concerns about the fuel farm project, the impacts to nearby wetlands, and the close proximity of the fuel farm to the Haven well (a primary drinking water source for the Pease Tradeport that is already significantly impacted by PFAS contamination) was discussed. The plan formulated in the meeting was the City of Portsmouth would request that the Pease Development Authority (PDA) host a meeting to share more information about the project and to hear from the community regarding their concerns. Suzanne Woodland emailed the PDA Executive Director Paul Brean on July 14, 2023 requesting PDA host a meeting. Andrea Amico followed up to the initial email to Mr. Brean clarifying the request for a community meeting and with questions from the community. There has been no apparent movement on the project since 2023 when the Federal Aviation Administration requested a new environmental impact study for the development..

Community Engagement:

On November 14, 2025, SWAG co-chairs Andrea Amico and Al Pratt, and Assistant Water Resource Manager Mason Caceres, spoke to Portsmouth High School Global Leadership students on PFAS, City water supply, water quality, and water quantity.

SWAG Meetings:

The SWAG met four times in 2024, four times in 2025, and covered a variety of topics, received quarterly updates from the City water department, received legislative updates from elected officials, and hosted several guest speakers. SWAG members attended a tour of the Madbury Reservoir (the city's largest drinking water source) on September 10, 2025.

Below are the meeting dates, agendas, and guest speakers who presented at SWAG meetings in 2024-2025:

2024 – 4 meetings total:

March 24, 2024:

- Water Supply & Master Plan Update - Brian Goetz, co-chair
- Lead update
 - Portsmouth Water - Mason Caceres, Water Quality Specialist II
 - Portsmouth Schools - Dr Zach McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools.
Ken Linchey, Director of Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance
- Legislative update - David Meuse, NH State Rep
- Seacoast well testing update - Brian Goetz, Portsmouth DPW
- Mission update discussion - Andrea Amico, SWAG co-chair
- Q&A
- Public comment

June 27, 2024:

- Introduction & Approval of minutes – Andrea Amico, co-chair
- Water Supply & Master Plan Update - Brian Goetz, co-chair
- EPA PFAS MCL Update - Brian
- Pease Water System Contamination 10 year recap - Brian & Andrea
- National PFAS Conference update - Andrea
- Service Line Inventory for Lead Regulations update – Mason Caceres
- Katrie Hillman's new role (Great Bay Changemaker) – Katrie Hillman, SWAG member
- Mission update - Andrea
- Future field trip - Brian
- Q&A
- Public comment

September 10, 2024:

- 6:00 pm – Meet at Madbury Water Treatment Facility, 60 Freshet Road, Madbury, NH 03823 - Carpool to Bellamy Reservoir
- 6:15 – Madbury Reservoir Tour - City of Portsmouth Mason Caceres, Mariah Habershaw, Al Pratt
- 6:45 – Return to Water Treatment Facility
- 7:00 – In-person and Zoom portion of meeting

- Reservoir Watershed Overview – Al Pratt
- Cyanobacteria Overview – Mariah
- City Water Supply & Master Plan Update - Al
- Lead inventory and sampling update - Mason
- PFAS update – Al
- Q&A
- Public comment

December 5, 2024:

- Welcome, Introduction & Approval of minutes – Andrea Amico, co-chair
- SWAG Co-chair update
- Mission Update - Andrea
- Quarterly Water Supply Update – Al Pratt, Water Resource Manager
- City Water Project Update
- Service Line Inventory for Lead Regulations update – Mason Caceres
- DoD Policy Update on EPA PFAS MCLs
- Legislative Update – Rep. David Meuse
- Public comment

March 5, 2025:

- Welcome, Introduction & Approval of minutes – Andrea Amico, co-chair
- Fluoride Presentation and Discussion - NHDES, NHDHHS and NHOHC
- NHDES Regulatory Update – NHDES
- PFAS Update
- Lead Discussion - Rich DiPentima, SWAG member
- Quarterly Water Supply Update - Al Pratt, Water Resource Manager
- Letter of Support for Greenland Well Treatment Funding
- Mission Update
- UNH Foam Sampling Project, Andrea Amico
- Community Education Discussion
- Public Comment

June 18, 2025:

- Welcome, Introduction & Approval of minutes - Andrea Amico, SWAG co-chair.
- Membership update - Andrea Amico
- EPA PFAS Announcement re: MCLs - Brandon Kernen, NH DES Administrator of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
- Cyber Security Presentation - Brandon Kernen & Al Pratt, City of Portsmouth Water Resource Manager & SWAG co-chair

- Quarterly Water Supply Update - Al Pratt
- Dover Municipal Landfill Update - Dean Peschel, Peschel Consulting LLC & Christene Binger, Verdantas LLC
- Legislative Update – Rep. David Meuse
- Mission discussion - Andrea Amico
- Public comment

October 7, 2025:

- Welcome, Introduction & Approval of minutes – Andrea Amico, SWAG co-chair
- Quarterly Water Supply Update – Al Pratt, Water Resource Manager & SWAG co-chair
- Pease PFAS Health Studies Update - Dr Laurel Schaidler, Silent Spring Institute
- Seacoast Drinking Water Commission - NH State Representative David Meuse
- Lead update - Mason Caceres, Assistant Water Resource Manager
- Water Main Flushing Program - Al Pratt
- PFAS update - Andrea Amico
- Mission Vote - Andrea Amico
- SWAG end of year summary/recommendations to City Council - Andrea Amico
- Public comment

December 4, 2025:

- Welcome, Introduction & Approval of minutes - Andrea Amico, SWAG co-chair
- Lead update - Mason Caceres, Assistant Water Resource Manager
- Quarterly Water Supply Update – Al Pratt, Water Resource Director & SWAG co-chair
- Master Plan project updates - Al Pratt
- PFAS update - Andrea Amico
- SWAG end of year summary/recommendations to City Council - Andrea Amico
- Public comment

Water legislation summary 2024-2025:

The summary below has been provided by NH State Representative and SWAG member David Meuse:

Bill	Title	Status (6/17/2025)	Committee	Analysis
HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL	relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures (NOTE: this is the state budget bill. Worth noting is that it is common for water and environmental legislation requiring an appropriation to be added in HB2, while the original bill is tabled, retained, or killed).)	Signed by the governor	Finance	Changes solid waste facility siting regulations and establishes a Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee; imposes a new \$3.50 per ton surcharge on all solid waste disposed of at any of the state's six active landfills or its waste-to-energy facility; Requires DES to establish an application approval process and determine the prorated compensation amount for each public water system with PFAS detections based on the amount public water systems spent or will spend on infrastructure to mitigate PFAS compounds minus the amount received from other funding sources; Repeals certain wastewater state aid grants; Reconfigures some criteria to serve on the water council and the wetlands council; Requires the department of environmental services to establish an application and approval process to determine the prorated compensation amount for each public water system with PFAS detections based upon certain factors; Expands the type of health plan loss information available to certain large employers; Allows the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission to issue grants, loans, or reimbursements to water systems for impacts related to PFAS contamination; Makes an \$11.2 million appropriation to the department of environmental services from the drinking water and groundwater trust fund for the purpose of funding regional drinking water infrastructure as part of Phase 2B of the southern New Hampshire regional water project; Appropriates funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of making payments to communities for projects that have previously been awarded state aid grant funding for eligible and completed wastewater infrastructure projects.

HB 97-FN	making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for wastewater infrastructure projects.	Retained, amended by the committee, and recommended Ought to Pass. Full House vote will take place on 1/7/2026.	Finance	This bill makes an appropriation of \$5 million to the department of environmental services for eligible wastewater projects.
HB 179-FN	relative to hazardous waste accident fees.	Signed by the governor	Environment and Agriculture	This bill changes the fee for nonpayment of hazardous materials or waste accident expenses to \$1,000 per day after 90 days of nonpayment.
HB 215-FN	requiring a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project.	Retained, amended by the committee, and recommended Ought to Pass. Full House vote will take place on 1/7/2026.	Environment and Agriculture	This bill requires a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project and requires the department of environmental services to make a determination that the landfill is a net public benefit.
HB 355	relative to the membership of the solid waste working group.	Signed by the governor	Environment and Agriculture	This bill changes a member on the solid waste working group and extends the due dates for interim and final reports.

HB 416-FN	prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.	Signed by the governor	Criminal Justice and Public Safety	This bill prohibits the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state and provides a penalty therefor. (Escalating penalties: Violation for 1st offense, misdemeanor for subsequent offense, felony for third or greater offense)
HB 566-FN	requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management.	Signed by the governor	Environment and Agriculture	This bill requires permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management.
HB 658	raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.	Signed by the governor	Environment and Agriculture	This bill raises the cap on reimbursement from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund for owners of on-premise-use facilities who have demonstrated financial need. This bill is a request of the department of environmental services.
SB 178	relative to the department of health and human services laboratory services for testing of water supplies.	Signed by the governor	Executive Departments and Administration	This bill directs the department of health and human services to adopt administrative rules regarding laboratory services and fees for testing of water supplies. The bill transfers fees for such services from statute to administrative rule. The bill is a request of the department of health and human services.
SB 299	relative to penalties for contractors violating water pollution and waste disposal regulations.	Signed by the governor	Senate Energy and Natural Resources	This bill imposes penalties (up to a \$5,000 fine per offense) on contractors who supervise or perform work in violation of the shoreland water quality protection act.

HR 10	(New Title) A resolutuion recognizing the importance of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment with regard to our fundamental rights.	Passed (no additional action needed by Senate or governor)	Environment and Agriculture	This resolution recognizes the importance of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment with regard to our fundamental rights.
HR 13	A RESOLUTION opposing the permitting of a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire.	Passed (no additional action needed by Senate or governor)	Environment and Agriculture	This resolution urges the New Hampshire department of environmental services to deny any permitting for a landfill next to Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, New Hampshire.
HB 171	establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.	Re-referred in Senate; committee recommended Inexpedient to Legislate; final Senate vote on 1/7/2026.	Environment and Agriculture	This bill establishes a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.
HB 199	extending the statute of limitation on civil actions relative to damage caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Tabled	Judiciary	This bill extends the statute of limitation on civil actions brought relative to damage caused by PFAS.

SB 226-FN	suspending applications for new landfills and establishing a committee to study the feasibility of incinerating solid waste.	Re-referred; committee recommendation was Interim Study; final Senate vote on 1/7/2026.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources	This bill suspends applications for new landfills and establishes a committee to study the feasibility of incinerating solid waste.
HB 322	allowing for the establishment of a village district to protect and remediate surface waters.	Inexpedient to legislate	Resources, Recreation and Development	This bill allows for consistent environmental policies for towns in a Village District that share a body of water to protect and remediate surface water quality within the district.
HB 449	requiring water districts to provide a water filtration system to residential customers in certain cases.	Inexpedient to legislate	Resources, Recreation and Development	This bill requires water districts where the water is not potable to provide a water filtration system to residential customers in certain cases.
HB 479	establishing a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers.	Inexpedient to Legislate	Environment and Agriculture	This bill establishes a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers
HB 568	allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply.	Tabled	Resources, Recreation and Development	This bill allows the adoption of subdivision regulations that require water supply studies, determination of adequate water quantity for reasonably anticipated future water uses, and minimum on-lot private well testing requirements. This bill also clarifies the applicant's duty to pay associated costs.

HB 584	relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.	Inexpedient to legislate	Judiciary	<p>This bill:</p> <p>I. Provides that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in New Hampshire.</p> <p>II. Removes a reference to medical schools recognized by the World Health Organization and replaces it with a reference to the World Directory of Medical Schools.</p> <p>III. Creates a cause of action against counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities who create and enforce policies based on the claims of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum.</p> <p>IV. Provides that in a claim against the state or a local government agency for enforcing policies or directives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or the World Economic Forum, the limits of awards under RSA 541-B shall apply and shall not be increased by the proceeds of an insurance policy held by such entity.</p>
HB 589-FN	defining and prohibiting wanton animal waste and prohibiting certain wildlife hunting contests.	Inexpedient to legislate	Fish and Game and Marine Resource	This bill defines and prohibits wanton animal waste and prohibits certain wildlife hunting contests.
HB 601-FN	relative to causes of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment	Inexpedient to legislate	Judiciary	<p>This bill:</p> <p>I. Creates a private cause of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.</p> <p>II. Creates criminal penalties for companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment.</p>

HB 619-FN	making an appropriation to the solid waste management fund.	Retained-- full House will vote on committee Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation on 1/7/2026.	Finance	This bill makes a nonlapsing \$1,000,000 appropriation for the 2025-2027 biennium to the solid waste management fund. The committee recommendation to kill it was because these funds were already appropriated in the 2026-2027 New Hampshire budget bill (HB2). That bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$1 million to the fund for a matching grant program. It also establishes a \$3.50 per ton solid waste disposal surcharge to fund the Solid Waste Management Fund, not a direct cash appropriation. Starting January 1, 2026, this surcharge will be collected from customers at disposal facilities, with the revenue used by the NHDES for program implementation, including facility permitting, compliance, and a municipal reimbursement program.
HB 691-FN	prohibiting the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water systems.	Inexpedient to legislate	Resources, Recreation and Development	This bill repeals and prohibits the use of fluoridation chemicals in public water systems.
HB 707	requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills.	Re-referred	Environment and Agriculture	The bill requires the department to modify rules to avoid significant harms to human health and the environment, and changes the enabling statute of the department of environmental services solid waste division to require the department to consider health and the environment when making future rules.
HB 724	relative to lead paint poisoning prevention and remediation.	Indefinitely postponed	Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs	This bill lowers the childhood blood lead action level from 5 micrograms/deciliter to 3.5 micrograms/deciliter; mandates that municipal building permits include the EPA-RRP license number for any person engaged in renovation, repair, or painting of buildings erected prior to January 1, 1978; directs the department of health and human services to inspect the other dwelling units when one unit in a multi-unit building has a lead hazard; and creates a

				rebuttable presumption that pre-1978 housing contains lead hazards.
HB 756	relative to establishing a blood lead level testing requirement for children entering daycare and public schools.	Inexpedient to legislate	Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs	This bill establishes a blood lead level testing requirement for children entering day care and public schools
SB 115-FN	making an appropriation for regional drinking water infrastructure.	Tabled	Finance	This bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services to fund regional drinking water infrastructure.
SB 240-FN-A	making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for eligible water projects.	Tabled	Finance	This bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services for the purpose of making payments to communities for projects for new awards and for making payments for projects that have previously been awarded state aid grant funding for eligible and completed wastewater infrastructure projects.

SB 302-FN	Title: (New Title) requiring background checks for solid waste and hazardous waste facility owners, establishing a solid waste site evaluation committee and temporarily suspends the issuance of solid waste permits by the department of environmental services, relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals, and establishing a committee to study the animal cruelty statutes.	Died in committee of conference	Senate Executive Departments and Administration	<p>This bill:</p> <p>I. Requires background checks for solid waste and hazardous waste facility owners including partners and managers.</p> <p>II. Establishes the solid waste facility site evaluation committee, requires major solid waste disposal facilities to be certified by the solid waste facility site evaluation committee, and temporarily suspends the issuance of solid waste permits by the department of environmental services.</p> <p>III. Prohibits the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of abuse of animals unless such person is charged with cruelty to animals or the animals require temporary protective custody.</p> <p>IV. Requires the state veterinarian or their designee to accompany an investigating officer when livestock are the subject of a cruelty case in order to set probable cause criteria for the taking of the animal.</p> <p>V. Establishes a committee to study certain animal cruelty statutes.</p>
-----------	---	---------------------------------	---	--

References:

City of Portsmouth SWAG webpage meeting and presentation information:
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/citycouncil/safe-water-advisory-group>

EPA Press Release on PFAS MCLs April 10, 2024:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-first-ever-national-drinking-water-standard>

DoD Policy on PFAS MCLs September 3, 2024:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/565b6fe8e4b0f0c1a028adc4/t/674631ed03e3ea47ef63c9bb/1732653550006/EPA+MCL+Implementation+Memo.pdf>

Seacoast Online Article: *“Portsmouth secures 44-acre easement to protect city water at Bellamy Reservoir”* June 9, 2025

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/2025/06/09/portsmouth-secures-44-acre-easement-to-protect-bellamy-reservoir-water/84049177007/>

Seacoast Online Article: *“Portsmouth asks residents to voluntarily restrict outdoor water use due to lack of rain”* August 15, 2025:

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2025/08/15/portsmouth-asks-residents-to-voluntarily-restrict-outdoor-water-use/85675582007/>

Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee

2024-2025 YEAR-END REPORT



BETSY BLAISDELL

TRACEY CAMERON

KEVIN CHARETTE

BEN D'ANTONIO

TOM ROONEY

PETER SOMSSICH

COUNCILOR KATE COOK

COUNCILOR JOHN TABOR, CHAIR

Energy Advisory Committee 2024-2025 Report Dec 8, 2025

During 2024 and into 2025, the Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) worked diligently in a structured way to advocate for a lower-cost, lower-carbon energy future for city residents.

After being reinstated by the Mayor in February 2024, the committee established its mission and priorities through a group voting exercise. Subsequently, two working groups were formed in spring 2024: a solar workgroup and a workgroup dedicated to finding emission-reduction funding. The committee delivered a council update to maintain transparency. Members conducted research into municipal solar arrays, using examples from other towns and cities, and met with Energy Efficient Investments, Inc., the city's energy efficiency consultants about the efficiency program they are developing for municipal buildings.

In late 2024, PEAC recommended and secured City Council approval to pursue a feasibility study for a solar array at the Jones Avenue landfill, laying the groundwork for what could become a major municipal renewable energy asset. This effort continued with further updates, and the Council voted funding in 2025 for a feasibility study and interconnect study.

The committee also reviewed options to provide renewable power to the city's wastewater treatment plants, which is a practice in Exeter, Somersworth, Dover and other cities and towns. Committee member Herb Lloyd spearheaded a free study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Boulder, CO to conduct a detailed assessment of both wind and solar power options for these facilities. The resulting analysis provided wind and solar power modelling for a series of options. Unfortunately, the size of the optimum tower needed for any payback (120 feet) was not likely to win community support, but solar deployment at the Pease wastewater treatment facility had a favorable cost/benefit.

In parallel, PEAC provided extensive oversight and communication related to the Community Power program, operated by the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). The committee monitored program performance and organized community engagement efforts such as the Green Energy Challenge. In this friendly competition with other towns to boost the number of residents choosing green power options for their home, Portsmouth emerged the winner. The committee ensured residents were informed about rate changes and program impacts. This included direct engagement with coalition representatives and public communication planning when CPCNH supply rates rose above Eversource rates.

PEAC also prioritized public education and participation. It hosted two "Button Up" residential energy reduction seminars, initiated by committee member Tracey Cameron. Also, committee member Betsy Blaisdell led a "Solar for All" residential solar discussion at the library that was well attended. These efforts strengthened community awareness while reinforcing the city's long-term sustainability objectives.

The committee, now permanent, looks forward to continuing its program of work in the next term and beyond. Special thanks for staff support from Jillian Harris and Stephanie Seacord.

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Affordable Housing

2024-2025 Report



Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Housing 2024-2025 Report

The MBRH committee was created in March 2024. The committee set its mission in the following statement voted in May 2024:

“Recommend policy changes that would secure permits for at least 500 units of diverse, affordable housing by the private and public sector over the next two years, while promoting market conditions to ensure long-term affordability and accessibility for all income levels.”

Members are:

Dagan Migirditch – Co-Owner, Liar’s Bench; John O’Leary – former city councilor; Megan Corsetti –resident; Erik Anderson –resident; Mary Loane –resident; Tracy Kozak – principle of ARCOVE architects; Andrew Samonas – Planning Board member; Jen Stebbins Thomas – managing director, PROCON; Byron Matto – School Board liason; City Councilor Beth Moreau –planning board member; Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley and Councilor John Tabor, co-chairs

The committee met 25 times with additional meetings by sub-groups. Their work encompassed conversions of city property for affordable housing (such as the Sherburne project), innovative new zoning like the Gateway Neighborhood Zoning Overlay, other zoning changes to increase supply, gathering data from RKG associates on incentives for developers to include affordable units, exploring private sector initiatives like a low-interest loan fund for affordable units, and engaging with housing advocates and the public on housing policy.

The committee has made incremental progress with ten recommendations voted on by the City Council. What follows is a summary of impacts.

Impact – Sherburne School project (Nine meetings)

Action and recommendation	Impact
April 2024: recommend the city “move toward the disposition of Sherburne property for permanent affordable housing” after public input and discussion, including concerns of 16 neighbors	Council approves the recommendation. City manager begins an RFQ process that nets six applicants
August 2024: Council requests committee input on Sherburne. Committee deliberates on RFP criteria	City manager uses committee and other input and to start RFP process
November 2024: Committee vets two finalists, POAH and PHA with extensive list of written questions	City staff relay questions to PHA and POAH and open the process to a public Q&A December 5
December 5, 2024: Committee reviews answers, hears from developers and 33+ public comments, votes 4-3 to recommend PHA as developer	Council votes December 9 to move forward with PHA and their plan for 127 units of below-market rate housing

Impact: city properties (two meetings, four site walks)

Action/recommendation	Impact
June 2025: Committee considers additional city properties to dispose of for housing	
July-August 2025: site walks at Granite St., two sites in Atlantic Heights, city hall lower lot. Recommend Granite St. if neighboring condo board would sell incremental land. Recommend city lower lot as politically harder but most sensible as an optimal location close to downtown	Recommendations go to City Council. Staff exploration of land sale does not bear fruit; city hall lower lot tabled until city hall renovation/police station options are clear
April 10: Committee discusses potential expansions of PHA properties (Gosling Meadows, expansion, small parcel near senior center, Atlantic Heights parcel, Wamesit expansion, other)	Part of PHA long range planning

Impact: GNOD (three meetings)

Action/recommendation	Impact
June 2024: Committee creates workgroups for zoning, parking/transportation, and finance. Zoning workgroup discusses Commerce Way as a priority area for mixed use (in addition to discussing initial co-living concepts)	Discussion of Commerce Way merges into lawsuit settlement discussions
Sep 2024: Committee reviews Gateway Neighborhood Zoning Overlay district's three options to help solve housing need in exchange for zoning incentives: inclusion of below market units, in lieu payment to housing trust fund instead, or land donation for city use for housing	Committee and legal staff work on fleshing out in lieu option and Housing Trust Fund
Feb 2025: Committee and RKG develop in-lieu payment workings and recommend to council, as well as Affordable Housing Trust Fund language	Council approves in-lieu payment methodology and value table as well as new Housing Trust Fund language
February 2025: Committee votes to recommend City manager run process for Commerce Way land donation/affordable housing, and consider POAH as a pre-qualified developer	Recommendation reported to City Council

Impact: Zoning changes (four meetings plus working group)

Action/recommendation	Impact
May/June/September 2025: Committee and staff develop a list of zoning changes in response to City Council request	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend a list of additional industrial areas such as Heritage Way to convert to mixed use 	Referred to Planning Board and approved by planning board to go back to Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put parking approvals for multiunit projects into site review 	Final zoning language in process for Planning Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Section 18.218 which allows for multiple units in the same existing house to more areas of the city 	Council referred to planning board, planning board eyeing this as part of the Master Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt RSA 79E which gives temporary tax relief for converting office buildings to housing, downtown renovations that increase housing supply, and the creation of “Housing Opportunity Zones” that incentivize projects with 30% of units designated as affordable 	Council voted to request a report back from Legal Department. Legal staff seeking more guidance on where the provisions would be applied and which provisions to put to a vote. Council voted to hold a work session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2025: Committee further explores RSA 79E as well as Transfer of Development Rights that created the Cottages in Dover, with Ryan Pope of New Hampshire Housing 	TBD

Impact: 1% Loan Fund (working group)

Action/recommendation	Impact
Committee members discussed successful Upper Valley Loan Fund, a private initiative offering low-interest financing for affordable housing. It is responsible for 200+ units of affordable housing, funded by local employers and banks. A committee workgroup began exploring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with two local banks who expressed their willingness to participate	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discovered Lighthouse Credit Union has put together a Seacoast regional working group with the same goal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee has active representation with that working group	Ongoing private sector initiative

How is the city doing vs. 500 unit goal?

Projects '24-25	Units	Status	Type of housing	Prime mover
Sherburne Phase 1	90	Approved	Permanent below mkt	Housing Committee
Christ Church	44	Approved	Permanent below mkt	PHA - Church
Service Credit	0	On hold	Mix including below mkt	SCU -Land Use Comm
The Tour	15	Part of CUP	Affordable Housing	Planning Dept
Cinemagic	19	Part of CUP	Affordable Housing	Planning Dept
Total	168			

Pre-Development phase

Sherburne Phase 2	37	Part of approval	Permanent below mkt	Housing Committee
Commerce Way	80	Land transfer in 2026*	Permanent below mkt	Housing Committee
Total	117			

Diverse new housing types allowed

Co-Living	83	Approved**	Below market by design	McNabb- PB
ADUs	29	Approved***	Rents unknown	Planning Dept
Total	112			

* 80 is minimum

** Occupancy of 125 allowed

*** Only four approved in 2023



Karen S. Conard
City Manager

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Municipal Complex
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
kconard@portsmouthnh.gov
(603) 610-7201

Date: December 18, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor McEachern and City Council Members

From: Karen S. Conard, City Manager *KSC*

Re: City Manager's Comments on City Council Agenda of December 22, 2025

XI. City Manager's Items Which Require Action:

1. **Approval of Police Proposed Memorandum of Agreement:**

Please find attached a memorandum from Tom Closson, the City's Labor Negotiator, regarding the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union. A supplemental memorandum from Deputy City Manager Weber is also enclosed.

I recommend that the City Council move to approve the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union.

2. **Resident Access Parking Program Policy Approval:**

Included in this Council packet is a proposed [City Council Policy No 2025-03, a one-year Resident Access Parking Program Pilot - 2026](#) ("RAPP Policy") for your consideration this evening. The RAPP Policy was included as an informational item in the December 8th City Council packet. The only change from that draft is the addition of Rock Street in response to Councilor Moreau's request. This packet also includes Deputy City Manager Carl Weber's [updated report back and maps](#).

The Pilot program's goal is to increase parking availability for residents by charging non-residents \$1 an hour and providing free parking in designated locations outside the metered Downtown Business District (RAPP Zones) for Portsmouth residents and School, Recreation and Library employees who have registered their license plates through the City's Parking or Tax Office. The exact location of the RAPP Zones include public roads and public parking lots listed in the RAPP Policy and depicted in the updated maps in your packet. Registration for the program does not require the use of a cell phone application. The program will begin on March 1, 2026 and end on February 28, 2027. The Council will receive regular updates on data collected from the program. It is anticipated that the parking revenue from the program will cover the cost of management and enforcement.

I recommend that the City Council move to pass City Council Policy No 2025-03 - Resident Access Parking Program Pilot – 2026 as presented.

3. Access Easement for Water Services for Property Located at 921 Islington Street:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2025, the Planning Board granted Site Plan Review approval for property located at 921 Islington Street for the reconstruction of the existing building for restaurant use with associated site improvements and a Conditional Use Permit for an accessory outdoor dining and drinking area. As a part of the site plan approval, the Planning Board recommended the City Council accept a Water Service Access Easement over the parcel. This Water Service Access Easement will permit City staff to access the property for the purpose of leak detection and to turn valves in the case of an emergency.

The applicants have provided [the attached deed](#) which conforms with the City’s ordinary form for water service access easements. The Legal and Planning Departments have reviewed this document for form and recommend acceptance.

I recommend that the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a Water Service Access Easement Deed in a substantially similar form to the easement deed from PWED 2, LLC contained in the agenda packet.

4. Access Easements for Water Services for Property Located at 361 Hanover Street:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, the Planning Board granted Site Plan Review approval and Preliminary and Final Subdivision approval for the addition of four new residential structures and the renovation of the existing commercial building at 361 Hanover Street with the associated and required site improvements. As a part of the site plan approval, the Planning Board recommended the City Council accept Access Easements for Water Services over the two parcels which will be created as a part of this subdivision. These easements will permit City staff to access the properties for the purpose of leak detection and to turn valves in the case of an emergency.

The applicants have provided [the attached deeds](#) which conform with the City’s ordinary form for water service access easements. The Legal and Planning Departments have reviewed these documents for form and recommend acceptance.

I recommend that the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to accept and record Access Easements for Water Services in a substantially similar form to the easement deeds from 361 Hanover Steam Factory, LLC and from The Powerhouse Realty Trust, contained in the agenda packet.

XVII. City Manager’s Informational Items:

1. Update on Tax Bill Status:

I will provide a verbal update on the status of Tax Year 2025 bills.

**THOMAS M. CLOSSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC**

To: City Manager Conard, Mayor McEachern, and Members of the
Portsmouth City Council
cc: Police Chief Newport, Chairperson Coyle, and Members of the
Portsmouth Police Commission
From: Tom Closson
Re: Proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Portsmouth Police
Patrolman's Union
Date: December 22, 2025

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") with the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union ("the Union"). The purpose of this MOA is to try to address ongoing retention issues in the Portsmouth Police Department.

As reflected in the attached Appendix I, the MOA significantly reduces the number of steps in the current salary schedule while keeping the overall range of the salary schedule the same, thereby allowing employees to advance more rapidly up that existing salary range.

I am pleased to recommend it to you.

THE PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

And

THE PORTSMOUTH POLICE PATROLMAN'S UNION, NEPBA LOCAL #11

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

1. The Portsmouth Police Commission ("the City") and The Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union, NEPBA Local #11 ("the Union") are currently parties to a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect until June 30, 2027 ("the CBA").
2. The City and the Union hereby agree to delete Section 18-A (Wages/Salaries) of the current CBA and replace it with the following:

Effective January 1, 2026, the salary schedule attached hereto as Appendix I will apply to members of the bargaining unit.

3. The City and the Union hereby agree to delete Section 18-D (Wages/Salaries) of the current CBA and replace it with the following:

Step Advancement: After initial placement on the revised salary schedule, bargaining unit members will advance one (1) Step, if available, on January 1, 2027. At the Chief's discretion, a member who has completed the probationary period may be placed at a new step.

4. All other provisions of the CBA will remain in effect.

Dated: _____

Portsmouth Police Commission

Dated: _____

The Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union,
NEPBA Local #11

PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
PATROL OFFICERS
SALARY SCHEDULE
JANUARY 1, 2026-JUNE 30, 2026

APPENDIX I

STEP	WAGE	BI-WEEKLY	DAILY	HOURLY	OT
7	\$ 88,724.16	\$ 3,412.47	\$ 341.25	\$ 42.66	\$ 63.98
6	\$ 86,500.00	\$ 3,326.92	\$ 332.69	\$ 41.59	\$ 62.38
5	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 3,230.77	\$ 323.08	\$ 40.38	\$ 60.58
4	\$ 81,000.00	\$ 3,115.38	\$ 311.54	\$ 38.94	\$ 58.41
3	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 56.25
2	\$ 74,000.00	\$ 2,846.15	\$ 284.62	\$ 35.58	\$ 53.37
1	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 2,615.38	\$ 261.54	\$ 32.69	\$ 49.04




City of Portsmouth

Deputy City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen S. Conard, City Manager

FROM: Carl E. Weber, Deputy City Manager 

DATE: December 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Police Patrol MOA Cost Estimate for 12/22/2025 City Council Meeting

The following information was developed to determine the cost estimate of the MOA with the Police Department Patrol Union:

1. Total estimated wages, holiday pay, stipends, NH retirement, and Medicare and the impact on projected overtime of adopting the 7 Step wage scale effective 1/1/2026.
2. Cost of Hiring/Turnover for each police officer FY 2026. The estimate accounts for the hiring phase, the training phase, and the remainder of the probationary period with a total cost of \$141,112.94. This represents the cost of replacing an officer with experience with a recruit that must attend the NH Police Academy and be trained until the end of their first year when they become independent.

Police Patrol MOA 7 STEP Effective 1/1/2026	Projected Cost Year Year	FY 2026 Actual Budgeted Non- Ranking Sworn Only	Percent Change
Non-Ranking Sworn Wages	\$ 285,424.63	\$ 3,483,782.36	8.19%
Holiday Pay (per diem rate)	\$ 13,312.02	\$ 169,856.13	7.84%
Education Stipends (AVG 2.5%)	\$ 7,135.62	\$ 77,397.99	9.22%
NH Retirement (30.95%)	\$ 94,601.43	\$ 1,154,755.79	8.19%
Medicare (1.45%)	\$ 4,432.05	\$ 54,100.03	8.19%
<i>Subtotal Projected Wages & Benefits</i>	<i>\$ 404,905.75</i>	<i>\$ 4,939,892.30</i>	<i>8.20%</i>
Projected Cost of Non-Ranking Overtime	\$ 21,570.98	\$ 392,199.60	5.50%
NH Retirement (30.95%)	\$ 6,676.22	\$ 121,385.78	5.50%
Medicare (1.45%)	\$ 312.78	\$ 5,686.89	5.50%
<i>Subtotal Projected Overtime Costs</i>	<i>\$ 28,559.97</i>	<i>\$ 519,272.27</i>	<i>5.50%</i>
Total Projected Impact per Year	\$ 433,465.72	\$ 5,459,164.57	7.94%
Total Projected Impact for FY 2026 (6 Months)	\$ 216,732.86	\$ 5,459,164.57	3.97%

Cost of Hiring/Turnover for Each Officer FY 2026**Hiring, Training, and Establishing until the end of the first year**

Description	Timeframe (Weeks)	Cost
Hiring Phase		
Physical Agility Testing Day (Instructor pay) (3 officers x 3 hours)		\$ 826.83
Oral Boards/Assessments (1 OT x 8hrs - Note: 2 at straight time/on duty not included)		\$ 734.96
Polygraph (OT) 4 hrs		\$ 367.48
Background (OT) 20hrs		\$ 1,837.40
Psychological Exam		\$ 300.00
Medical Exam		\$ 1,700.00
Uniforms		\$ 3,600.00
Vest		\$ 1,200.00
Subtotal	12 to 26	\$ 10,566.67
Training Phase		
3 - Week training Pre Academy Officer training	3	\$ 7,184.30
16 - Week Academy (Salary/Benefits)	16	\$ 38,316.28
16 - Week FTO (Salary/Benefits)	16	\$ 38,316.28
FTO Trainer Costs		\$ 6,018.37
Subtotal	35	\$ 89,835.23
Remainder of Probationary Year		
Salary and Benefits - During the remainder of the probationary year	17	\$ 40,711.04
Subtotal	17	\$ 40,711.04
Total	52	\$ 141,112.94

Note: Does not include possible overtime costs associated with backfilling the schedule due to vacancies

CITY COUNCIL POLICY No **2025-03****RESIDENT ACCESS PARKING PROGRAM PILOT – 2026****Purpose**

Over the last decade, the City has implemented several pilots for Resident Neighborhood Parking Programs to address concerns of reduced parking availability for residents of neighborhoods located near the Downtown Business District.

Neighborhoods in proximity to the Downtown Business District are not metered.

Residents have experienced that nonresidents park in their neighborhood because parking spaces are unmetered, which creates a shortage of parking spaces for residents.

Prior pilots have been unsuccessful because they were difficult to manage and enforce.

A new Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot- 2026 (“Program”) has been created to address residents’ concerns and improve the operation and enforcement of the Program.

The goals of the Program are to:

- Increase parking availability for residents by charging nonresidents for parking in designated locations outside the downtown business district;
- Provide free parking for residents as well as School, Recreation, and Library employees who have registered their license plates with the City’s Parking Office or Tax Collector’s Office for resident parking;
- Simplify management and enforcement of the Program by using vehicle license plate enforcement; and
- Provide parking management data from the Program to the City Council to help inform future resident parking programs and parking availability in neighborhoods in proximity to the Downtown Business District.

Policy

The Program will charge non-residents \$1.00 per hour and provide free parking for residents and School, Recreation and Library employees with vehicle license plates registered through the City’s Parking Office or Tax Collector’s Office for resident parking in designated locations outside the metered Downtown Business District in RAPP Zones.

RAPP Zones include the following streets and City-owned parking lots listed below and set forth in the attached map:

- a. Rockland Street Lot (adjacent to Leary Field);
- b. The three parking areas in the Lot that serve the Middle School, Public Library and the Connie Bean Community Center off Parrott Avenue;
- c. Parrott Avenue, both sides;
- d. Hanover Street (from Bridge Street to Brewster Street), both sides;
- e. Pearl Street, both sides;
- f. Gates Street, both sides;
- g. Hancock Street, both sides;
- h. Rock Street, all delineated parking spaces;
- i. South Mill Pond Lot;
- j. Peirce Island (excluding boat launch); and
- k. Chris Rice Skateboard Park Lot

Parking Rates and hours of enforcement for the Program are set forth in Chapter 7, Article I, section 7.102 (C).

Effective date

The Program is a pilot and is effective from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on _____.

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
City Clerk




City of Portsmouth

Deputy City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen S. Conard, City Manager

FROM: Carl E. Weber, Deputy City Manager 
Benjamin M. Fletcher, Director - Parking and Transportation
Mike Casad, Parking General Foreman

DATE: December 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot - 2026 Updated

Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot – 2026

In response to a City Council request for a report back, staff from the City's Parking Division are recommending a one-year Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot to improve public parking management in areas other than the metered downtown business district. The RAPP Pilot 2026 prioritizes residents by providing free parking based on their Portsmouth registered vehicle license plates enrolled in the existing resident parking program while monetizing parking for non-residents.

The Pilot program is a proof-of-concept test to help determine whether monetizing non-resident parking results in increased parking availability for residents. By testing high-volume lots, adjacent roadways, and encouraging additional residents to register their Portsmouth vehicle license plates in the existing resident parking program, the City will be better equipped to develop future expansion into neighborhoods based on lessons learned and data gathered from this Pilot.

A Different Approach for RAPP Pilot 2026

The RAPP Pilot 2026 would charge non-resident vehicles \$1 per hour to park in designated areas, using vehicle license plate enforcement. Before the program begins on March 1, 2026, an outreach campaign will share details about the pilot and encourage residents to register their Portsmouth vehicle license plates through the

Parking Office or the Tax Collector's Office. This campaign will include flyers in the RAPP areas, FAQs, promotion on the website, social media, and the City Newsletter.

While the RAPP Areas may be adjusted during the term of the Pilot with City Council approval, the RAPP Areas will initially include the following public lots and roads:

- Rockland Street lot (adjacent to Leary Field)
- Middle School lot (off-school hours)
- Library lot
- Connie Bean Community Center lot*
- Parrott Avenue **(roadway only)**
- Hanover Street (from Bridge Street to Brewster Street)
- Pearl Street
- Gates Street
- Hancock Street
- Rock Street, all delineated parking spaces;*
- South Mill Pond lot**
- Peirce Island (Excluding boat launch)**
- Chris Rice Skateboard Park lot**

**Rock Street added per request of Councilor Moreau on 12/8/2025*

***Pending Recreation Board Review on 12/17/2025*

The entire plan will be presented to the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee and the Recreation Board for any additional consideration prior to implementation.

City staff met with the Library and Middle School to introduce the RAPP concept and how to best manage employees and staff, as well as improve signage to include designated parking areas for Middle School parents while visiting the school.

Residents who have already registered their Portsmouth vehicle license plates in the Parking Office or Tax Collector's Office for resident parking are able to park in the RAPP Areas without taking any further action. Residents can easily register their plates with either office.

Note: The Tax Collector's Office cannot automatically share resident license plate information with the Parking Division; residents must initiate this action.

Once registered, residents do not need to use a cellphone or app to participate in the RAPP Pilot 2026 program. Only non-residents or those residents who have

not registered their Portsmouth license plates would need to initiate a session with the ParkMobile App.

The goal is to make this RAPP Pilot 2026 as easy as possible for residents to park once they are registered in the parking system.

Additional user types and attributes – Middle school teachers, coaches, recreation and library staff will be added to the parking system in conjunction with the RAPP Pilot 2026 to allow for enforcement of non-residents while accounting for staff that may occupy adjacent lots or streets during working hours, recreation or after-school events.

Lessons Learned from Previous Pilot Program

The Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) Pilot in 2019 used parking permits and designated parking areas. The pilot included Hanover (Bridge to Brewster), Tanner, Tanner Court, Rock, Sudbury, Brewster, Langdon, McDonough, Cornwall, Rockingham, Cabot, Salem, and Dover Streets. Managing and tracking the permit program was difficult, especially for rental units with multiple occupants. The RAPP Pilot 2026 solves this problem by utilizing a simpler approach with Portsmouth vehicle license plate enforcement, and it is proposed to begin just over a year after the City began connecting current vehicle registrations to designate resident status.

RAPP Pilot 2026 Financial Analysis

The RAPP Pilot 2026 as outlined would result in 74 additional weekly hours of enforcement for the 551 spaces for an estimated \$4,215.25 per month cost. The estimated monthly revenue for non-resident parking is \$18,630.21, for an anticipated net gain of \$14,414.96 per month.

Thus, this RAPP Pilot 2026 is estimated to cover the costs associated with this program. In the future, any surplus revenue could be applied to cover costs associated with proposed neighborhood parking expansion. (See *Resident Access Parking Program - Cost and Revenue Estimates* dated 11/21/2025 for additional details.)

Timeline/Plan for Implementation

- Order signs: 4-6 weeks
- Conduct neighborhood Counts: 4-6 weeks
- Create zones in the ParkMobile App: 4-6 weeks

- Conduct outreach (Flyers on cars, website, and social media): 1-2 weeks
- Start with Friendly Warning Citations: Beginning day one to help educate for the first few weeks and emphasize registering Portsmouth license plates
- Provide data driven analysis-report back: Quarterly

Proposed Implementation Steps

December 22, 2025 - RAPP Policy to City Council for Adoption

January 20, 2026 - First Reading RAPP Ordinance

February 2, 2026 - Second Reading RAPP Ordinance

February 22, 2026 - Third Reading/Adoption of RAPP Ordinance

March 1, 2026 - RAPP Pilot begins

Future Steps

Staff will collect parking utilization data and monitor adjacent neighborhoods to evaluate changes in parking patterns to prioritize which neighborhoods the RAPP Pilot 2026 effort could expand into first. The Pilot program will test whether monetizing non-resident parking provides increased availability to residents. If true, this approach, when expanded to neighborhoods, may support higher density affordable housing developments in the future. Staff will provide financial analysis for any proposed expansion to include proposed neighborhoods, implementation phases, enforcement costs, revenue assumptions, and anticipated parking sessions to establish the net gain or loss associated with the recommendations.

City Council will receive a quarterly report on the RAPP Pilot 2026 with additional recommendations and possible adjustments to the RAPP program.

Future Enhancements to the ParkMobile App

- **Downtown Workforce Parking Program** - Staff is working with ParkMobile to develop an app-driven solution to expand this program beyond a garage.
- Staff will regularly engage with ParkMobile to explore new enhancements that will continue to improve the parking experience for residents.

Attachments

Resident Access Parking Program

Cost and Revenue Estimates - Nov. 21, 2025

Enforcement

Mon-Sat	66	Monday - Saturday hours
Sunday	8	Sunday hours
Total	74	hours of coverage required weekly

Surface Lots Only

	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost
PTE Enforcement	25,291.50	2,107.63
PTE Enforcement	25,291.50	2,107.63
Total Enforcement		4,215.25

Revenue Assumptions

Combined Lot Inventory 551 spaces

Low Observed Residency Usage

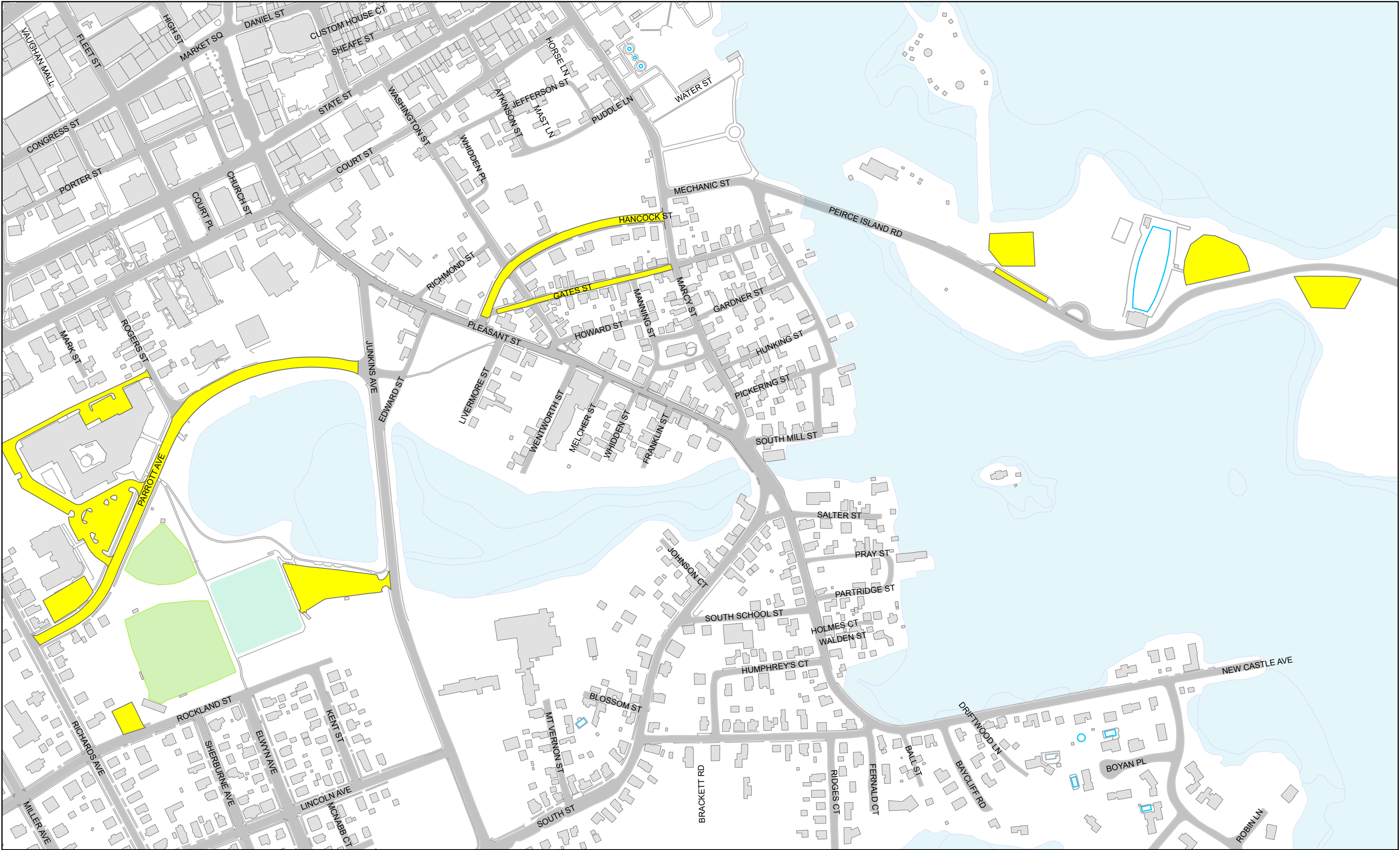
Average Length of Stay (LOS) downtown: 2.25 hours

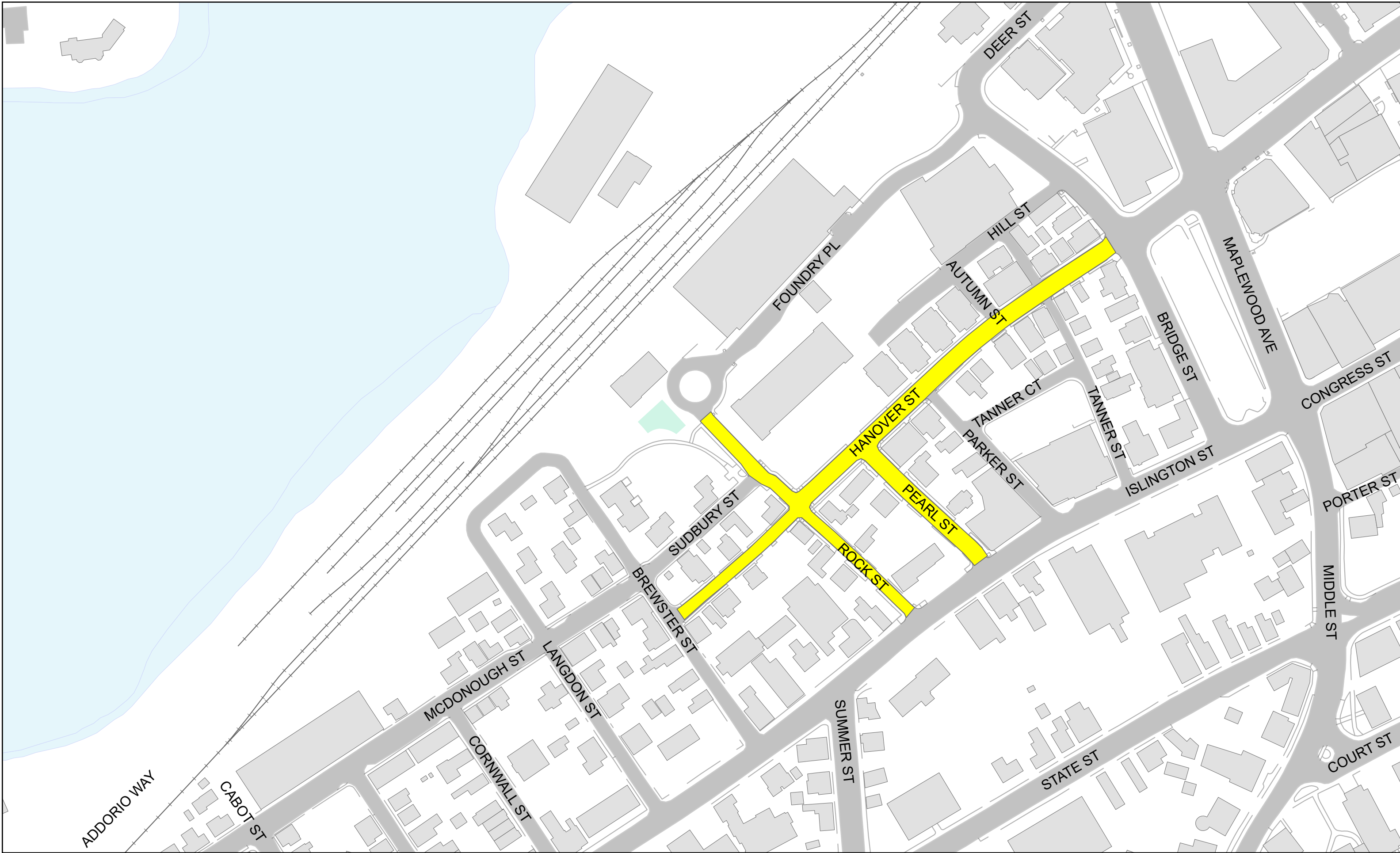
Anticipated Sessions	Rate	LOS (hours)	Revenue/Session	
175	\$ 1.00	3.5	\$ 3.50	\$ 18,630.21 Anticipated Monthly Revenue

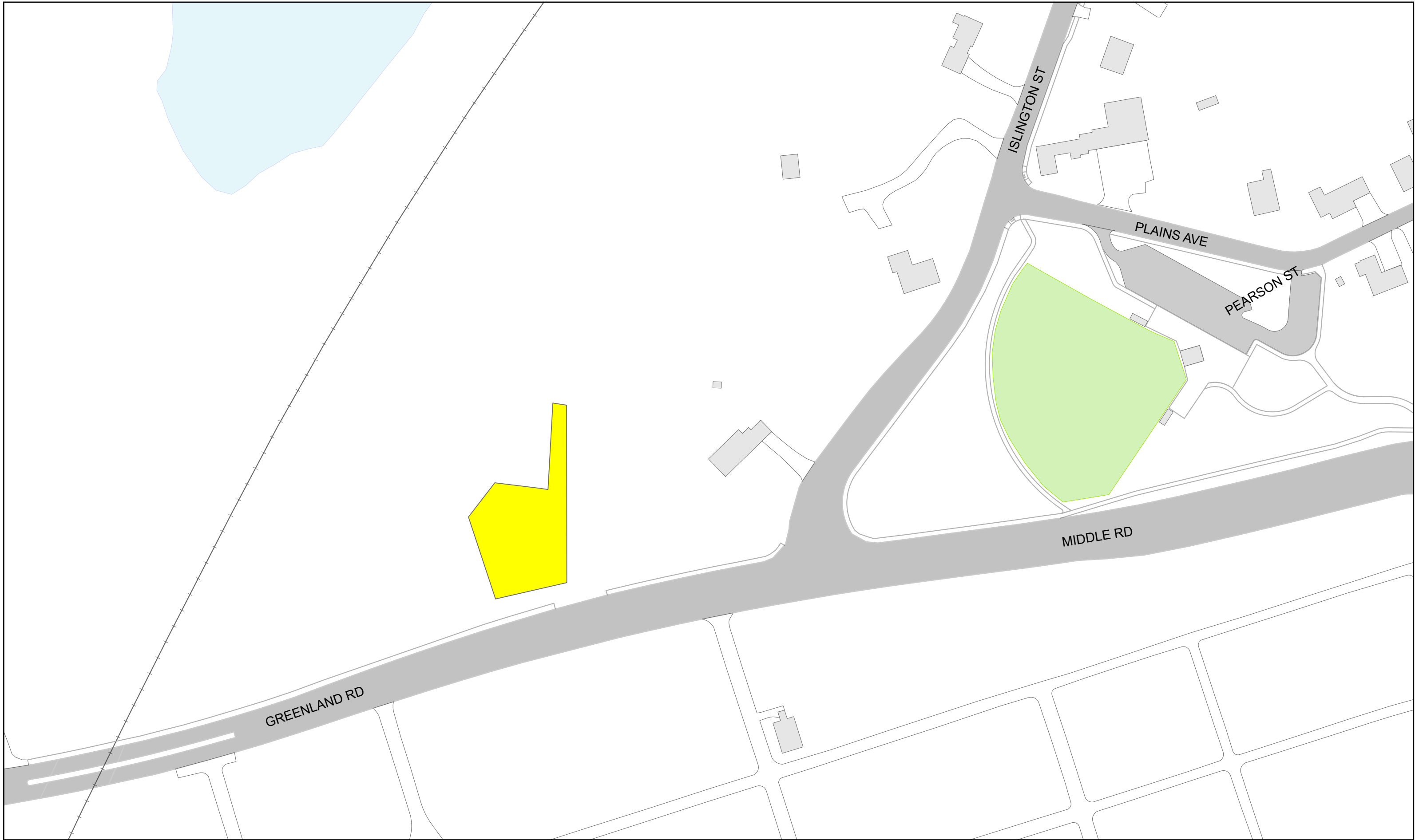
\$ 14,414.96 Anticipated net gain (loss)

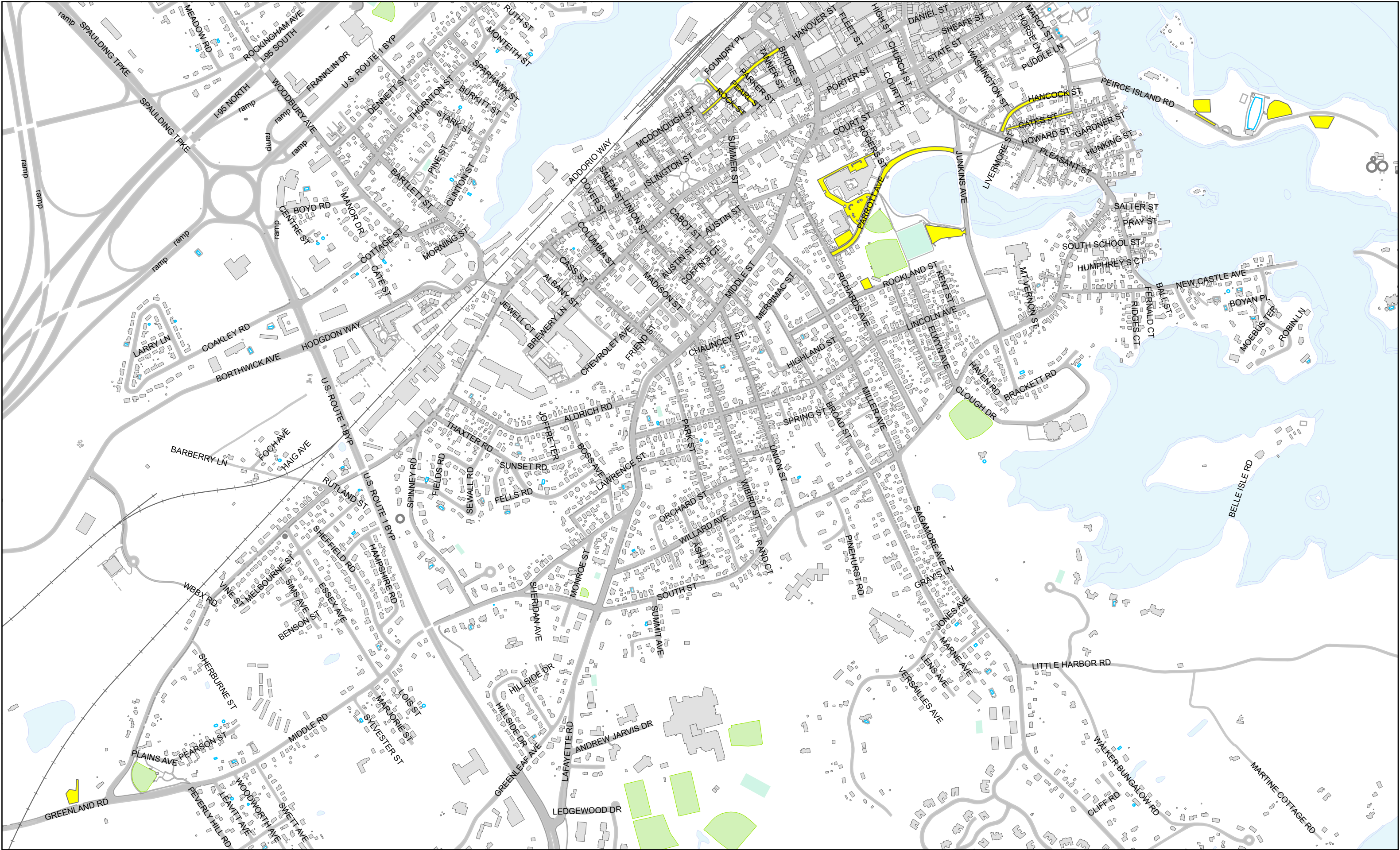
Inventory

35	Hanover Street - Bridge to Brewster
10	Pearl Street
28	Hancock Street
21	Gates Street
90	S Mill
15	Rockland
90	Parrot Avenue
75	Library/PMS
52	4 Tree Island - Paved Lot
22	4 Tree Street Inventory
55	Peirce Island Pool Lot
58	Skate Park
551	









ACCESS EASEMENT FOR WATER SERVICES

921 ISLINGTON STREET, PORTSMOUTH
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that **PWED 2, LLC**, a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company, with an address of 3 Penstock Way, Newmarket, New Hampshire 03857, for consideration received, grants to the City of Portsmouth, a municipal body politic having a mailing address of 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire 03801, with **QUITCLAIM COVENANTS** an easement over, below, along, and across the premises described herein, located at 921 Islington Street, City of Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, (Tax Assessor's Map No. 172, Lot 10), and being more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings therein situated on the northwesterly side of Islington Street in the City of Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, New Hampshire as more bounded and described in **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

Meaning and intending to convey an easement over the premises conveyed to the within grantor by Deed of Ampet, Inc., dated January 8, 2025, and recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 6596, Page 2664.

Purpose and Rights: The Grantee shall have a perpetual, permanent uninterrupted and unobstructed nonexclusive easement for the purpose of enabling the City of Portsmouth to access private water infrastructure including mains, water shutoffs, and valves for the limited purpose of leak detection and similar infrastructure inspection services and for access to valves for purposes of turning on and shutting off municipal water service. Grantee shall have no responsibility for installation, maintenance, operation, or replacement of the water infrastructure.

Retained Rights: Grantor retains the right to freely use and enjoy its interest in the easement area insofar as the exercise thereof does not interfere with the purpose of this instrument.

Easement To Run With Land: All rights and privileges, obligations and liabilities created by this instrument shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the heirs, devisees, administrators,

executor, successors and assignees of the Grantee and of the Grantor, the parties hereto and all subsequent owners of the Premises and shall run with the land.

This is an exempt transfer per R.S.A. 78-B:2(I).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this document on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

PWED2, LLC

Witness: _____

By: _____

Name: Eric J. Chinburg

Title: Manager

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

The instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2025, by Eric J. Chinburg, as the duly authorized Manager of PWED 2, LLC.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace

My commission expires: _____

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description of the Property

A certain tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon situated on the northwesterly side of Islington Street in the City of Portsmouth, County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the northeasterly corner of the parcel; thence running South $39^{\circ} 08'$ West a distance of 24.75 feet; thence turning and running South $42^{\circ} 31'$ West a distance of 125.25 feet by Islington Street to a corner at other land now or formerly of Robert Caswell; thence turning and running North $25^{\circ} 20'$ West a distance of 97.17 feet by land now or formerly of said Caswell to a corner at other land now or formerly of said Caswell; thence turning and running North $42^{\circ} 31'$ East a distance of 107.46 feet by other land now or formerly of said Caswell to a corner at land now or formerly of The Morley Company; thence turning and running South $51^{\circ} 16'$ East a distance of 88.72 feet by land now or formerly of said Morley Company. Reference is had to a plan dated February 1950 entitled "Plan of Land, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, owned by Robert B. Caswell" drawn by John W. Durgin, C.E. and recorded as Plan #01956 in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT

Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, with address of PO Box 350, 63 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, holder of a Commercial Real Estate Mortgage and Assignment of Leases and Rents (the "Mortgage") from **PWED 2, LLC**, a New Hampshire limited liability company with an address of 3 Penstock Way, Newmarket, New Hampshire 03857, in the original amount of \$500,000.00, dated February 7, 2025, and recorded in Rockingham County Registry of Deeds in Book 6601, Page 2072 and hereby subordinates the Mortgage to the Access Easement for Water Services granted by PWED 2, LLC to the City of Portsmouth, dated _____, 2025, and recorded with the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds in Book _____, Page _____.

Executed this ____ day of _____ 2025.

Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank

Witness

By: _____
_____, Vice President
Duly Authorized

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2025 by _____,
Vice President of Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank.

(Seal, if any)

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
My commission expires: _____

ACCESS EASEMENT FOR WATER SERVICES

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that **361 HANOVER STEAM FACTORY, LLC**, a New Hampshire limited liability company having an address of 41 Industrial Drive, Unit 20, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833, for consideration received, grants to the **CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**, a municipal body politic having a mailing address of 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire 03801, with **QUITCLAIM COVENANTS** an easement over, below, along, and across the premises described herein, located in Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, and being more particularly described as follows:

Easement Area: Said access easement shall encumber the property depicted as Lot 1 on a plan entitled “Subdivision Plan, Tax Map 138 – Lot 63, Kearsage Mill Unit Owners Association, Owners: 361 Hanover Steam Factor, LLC & Powerhouse Realty Trust, Foundry Place & Hanover Street, City of Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire” prepared by Ambit Engineering, Inc., dated June 2025 and revised through 10/22/25, and recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds as Plan _____.

Purpose and Grantee’s Rights: The Grantee shall have a perpetual, permanent uninterrupted and unobstructed nonexclusive easement for the purpose of enabling the City of Portsmouth to access private water infrastructure including mains, water shutoffs, and valves for the limited purpose of leak detection and similar infrastructure inspection services and for access to valves for purposes of turning on and shutting off municipal water service. Grantee shall have no responsibility for installation, maintenance, operation, or replacement of the water infrastructure.

Grantor’s Retained Rights: Grantor retains the right to freely use and enjoy its interest in the said property insofar as the exercise thereof does not interfere with the purpose of this instrument.

Easement To Run With Land: All rights and privileges, obligations and liabilities created by this instrument shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the heirs, devisees, administrators, executor, successors and assignees of the Grantee and of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the said property and shall run with the land.

Meaning and intending to convey an easement of the property conveyed to 361 Hanover Steam

Factory, LLC, by Deed of _____.

**THIS TRANSFER IS EXEMPT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX
PURSUANT TO NH RSA 78-B:2(I).**

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____ 2025.

361 Hanover Steam Factory, LLC

By: _____
Steven P. Wilson, Manager

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ by Steven
P. Wilson, duly authorized Manager of 361 Hanover Steam Factory, LLC.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:

ACCESS EASEMENT FOR WATER SERVICES

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that **DAVID B. ADAMS, TRUSTEE OF THE POWERHOUSE REALTY TRUST dated January 28, 1997**, of 210 Gates Street, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801, for consideration received, grants to the **CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**, a municipal body politic having a mailing address of 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire 03801, with **QUITCLAIM COVENANTS** an easement over, below, along, and across the premises described herein, located in Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, and being more particularly described as follows:

Easement Area: Said access easement shall encumber the property depicted as Lot 2 on a plan entitled “Subdivision Plan, Tax Map 138 – Lot 63, Kearsage Mill Unit Owners Association, Owners: 361 Hanover Steam Factor, LLC & Powerhouse Realty Trust, Foundry Place & Hanover Street, City of Portsmouth, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire” prepared by Ambit Engineering, Inc., dated June 2025 and revised through 10/22/25, and recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds as Plan _____.

Purpose and Grantee’s Rights: The Grantee shall have a perpetual, permanent uninterrupted and unobstructed nonexclusive easement for the purpose of enabling the City of Portsmouth to access private water infrastructure including mains, water shutoffs, and valves for the limited purpose of leak detection and similar infrastructure inspection services and for access to valves for purposes of turning on and shutting off municipal water service. Grantee shall have no responsibility for installation, maintenance, operation, or replacement of the water infrastructure.

Grantor’s Retained Rights: Grantor retains the right to freely use and enjoy its interest in the said property insofar as the exercise thereof does not interfere with the purpose of this instrument.

Easement To Run With Land: All rights and privileges, obligations and liabilities created by this instrument shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the heirs, devisees, administrators, executor, successors and assignees of the Grantee and of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the said property and shall run with the land.

Meaning and intending to convey an easement over the property conveyed to the within Grantor

by Warranty Deed of _____.

**THIS TRANSFER IS EXEMPT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX
PURSUANT TO NH RSA 78-B:2(I).**

TRUSTEE CERTIFICATE

The undersigned trustee as Trustee under The Powerhouse Realty Trust created by David B. Adams and Stephen T. Roy as grantors under trust agreement dated January 28, 1997, and thereto have full and absolute power in said trust agreement to convey any interest in real property and improvements thereon held in said trust and no purchaser or third party shall be bound to inquire whether the trustee has said power or is properly exercising said power or to see to the application of any trust asset paid to the trustee for a conveyance thereof.

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____ 2025.

The Powerhouse Realty Trust

By: _____
David B. Adams, Trustee

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ by David B. Adams, Trustee of The Powerhouse Realty Trust.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:



December 8, 2025

Mr. Deaglan McEachern
Mayor of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Mayor McEachern,

I am reaching out on behalf of Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and Conventures, Inc. to formally request permission to hold the 2026 Seacoast Cancer 5K in the City of Portsmouth on Sunday, September 20th, 2026. Upon the approval of Pease Development Authority, this event will be held in the parking lot of Wentworth-Douglass Hospital's Outpatient Center, located on Pease Tradeport, for the fourth year in a row.

The 5K walk/run will take place 9:00AM Sunday morning, with post-event festivities concluding at noon. Pending the scheduled completion of Corporate Drive, I have attached our suggested 5K route that would require the following road closures:

Corporate Drive -8:30AM-10:30AM

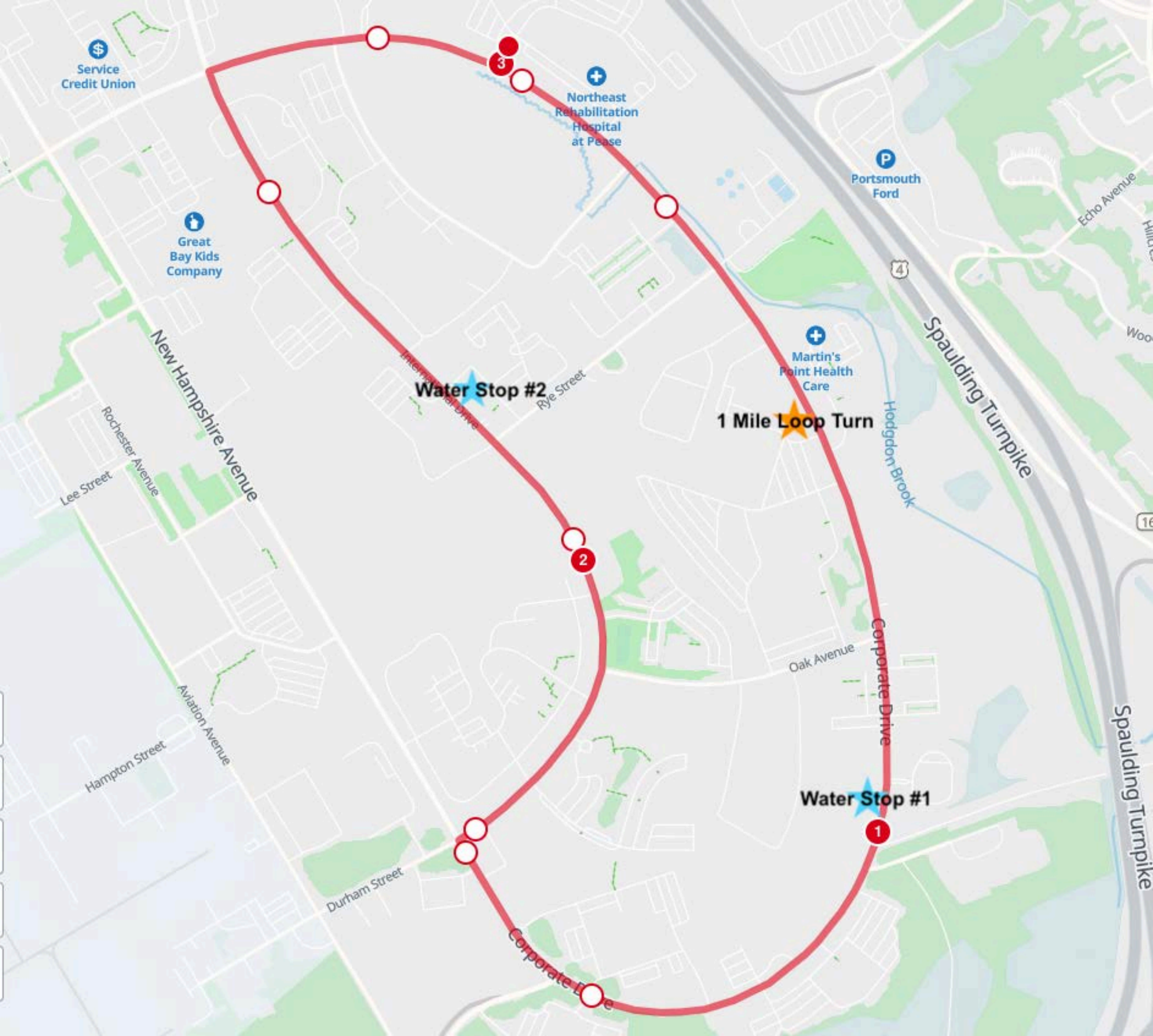
International Drive -8:30AM-10:30AM

We expect to draw a field of 2,000 participants of all ages and running abilities. Please feel free to contact me at 617-204-4234 with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Zampitella
Account Manager, Sports Events
Conventures, Inc.

CC Judy Pinkham
Manager, Corporate Giving and Special Events
Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Foundation



December 8th, 2025

The Honorable Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth and members of the Portsmouth City Council
1 Junkins Ave
Portsmouth NH, 03810

Dear Mayor McEachern and the Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, I would like to submit for the agenda, a proposed date for the 2026 Annual Seacoast Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year we would like to hold the event on Sunday October 25th, 2026 and hope to start and end again at Peirce Island. I have attached our 2025 route options for Walkers which did not impede the Seacoast Half Marathon and were approved by both the Portsmouth Police Department and the City. The police agreed that everything went well with both the site and the route this year so unless otherwise instructed, we have no plans to change them. We understand the stress that such events can have on the surrounding community and assure you that The Alzheimer's Association is cognizant of your concerns and is committed to upholding the standards of years past.

We offer two different route options for participants. Attached, please find the two route options drawn out for your review. We are planning to use the same routes as 2025 but are of course flexible pending any construction changes or issues that may arise. We will plan on engaging the help of the Portsmouth Police as with years past. The Walk will take place on the sidewalks through the city to minimize the impact on traffic. We understand what it means to be a good neighbor in the community and will be mindful and respectful of the residents of the City of Portsmouth as we raise awareness and funds for this critical cause. We would expect approximately 1,800 participants at this event, our premier fundraising and awareness event for the Alzheimer's Association in the Seacoast Area. Additionally, we will have approximately 70 combined volunteer and staff on site. The Walk site opens to Walkers at 8:30am for registration, the Walk itself kicks off at 9:45 and we are cleaned up and off the premises by 1pm.

We look forward to working with you again and thank you for all of your support of our event which has raised \$317,000 so far this year. Please reach out with any questions and I'm happy to answer them.

Sincerely,
Maria Stephanou
Director, Walk to End Alzheimer's
Alzheimer's Association – MA/NH Chapter
mmstephanou@alz.org
603-305-0692

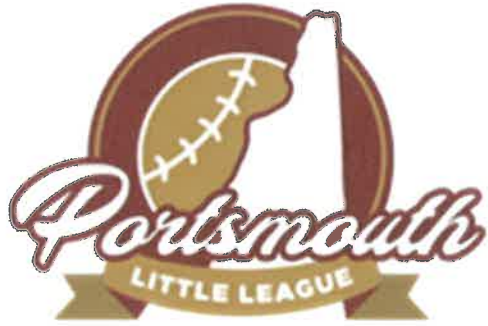


2.5 Mile Route

- Leave Peirce Island, go over the bridge and at the end take a right onto Marcy St.
- Take a right onto State St.
- Go under Mem. Bridge (Daniel St.)
- Take a right onto Bow St.
- Take a right onto Market St.
- Take a left onto Hanover St.
- Take a left onto Maplewood Ave.
- Take a left onto Court St.
- Take a right onto Pleasant St.
- Take a left onto Marcy St.
- Take a right onto Mechanic St. then back onto Peirce Island

Half Mile Loop

- Leave Peirce Island, go over the bridge and at the end take a right onto Marcy St.
- Enter the Prescott Park Gardens on the second entrance
- Follow the path through the park to loop back to Peirce Island Road



December 10, 2025

City Manager Karen Conard
City of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Ms. Conard,

I am writing with Portsmouth Little League's annual request for permission to install temporary signage at the Plains and Hislop Fields for the 2026 baseball season. Additionally, now that Central Field (Parrott Ave.) has a chain link fence, we are requesting your permission to install temporary signage at that field, too.

The signage will be in the form of banners affixed to the outfield fence and the advertising face toward the infield. The banners are uniform in color with a forest green background and white letters.

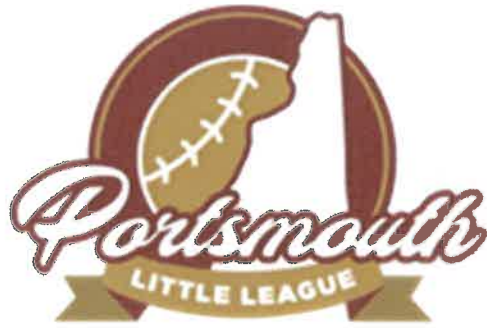
Signage affixed to the rear of the Plains Scoreboard will remain the color consistent with the green background and white letters as with the banners.

Banners will be affixed starting April 1 as volunteers clean up the fields and prepare for the season, and they will remain in place through October 2026.



Your feedback and/or approval to proceed is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jenna Raizes, (603) 969-5515
PLL Volunteer, President | 2025-26



December 10, 2025

City Manager Karen Conard
City of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Ms. Conard,

This request was approved last year; however, registration had already closed at that time. We are requesting approval to install registration-promotion signage at two (2) City fields: **Central Field (Parrot Ave.)** and **Plains Field (Plains Ave.)**.

The signage would be similar to what was previously used (example from 2018 shown below), with the addition of a QR code linking directly to our online registration. For the **2026 season**, signage would be installed immediately upon approval and removed no later than **March 15, 2026**. Moving forward, we anticipate requesting approval for signage to be installed annually beginning **December 1** and removed by **March 15**.

These signs will help us reach families who are new to Portsmouth and/or new to Portsmouth Little League, particularly at the fields where our teams play and practice. Our current email database consists primarily of returning families, and while we do share registration information with local schools, there are limitations on the content schools are able to include in their family communications. Field signage provides a visible, effective way to ensure new families are aware of registration opportunities.



We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenna Raizes | PLL Volunteer, President 2025-26 | (603) 969-5515

City Council Emails – December 8, 2025 – December 18, 2025

Submitted on Tue, 12/09/2025 - 20:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Adam

Last Name

Marcioneck

Email

amarcioneck@gmail.com

Address

595 F W Hartford Drive
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing in response to the proposed Resident Access Parking Program for lots which are currently free throughout the city. While I am not opposed to a program which provides residents free or discounted access to city lots, I am AGAINST applying paid parking to certain lots throughout the city, most specifically ones in which involve recreation or free services such as the skate park, south mill pond playground and library. I believe these places provide a public good that extends beyond just our fair city and its residents. These places are refuge for those without means, young and old.

In Stratham, the town has prevented non-residents from parking near the pump track in Stratham Hill Park. It feels so awful as a visitor to have to park in way far away when there are plenty of spots available. Its exclusionary and I think does not send a good message to those in surrounding communities. Imagine attending the farmers market from outside of town and coming back to your car to find you \$35 fine because you forgot to pay. Personally, I do not want to see parking tickets at any of these locations and this is coming from someone who will not be ticketed.

I also don't think it will have the intended affect of opening up spots. If you want a cost to drive people away, the cost must be substantial. \$1 an hour will just be absorbed by the wealthy that can afford it.

I ask that you rethink this proposal and the potential unintended consequences.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Fri, 12/12/2025 - 13:49

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Elizabeth

Last Name

Moore

Email

lizlu.morrissey@gmail.com

Address

93 Picott Road
Kittery, Maine. 03904

Message

Dear Portsmouth City Councilors,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to the proposed Resident Access Parking Program pilot, which would require non-residents to pay \$1 per hour to park in areas that are currently free, including the Portsmouth Public Library, Parrot Ave, and South Mill Pond lots.

I fully understand and sympathize with the challenges Portsmouth residents face regarding parking availability. As someone who used to live in Portsmouth and still regularly spends time in town, I recognize that thoughtful solutions are needed to balance resident access with the needs of visitors, employees, and families who rely on Portsmouth's municipal, recreational, and cultural resources.

However, I urge the Council to consider alternative approaches that do not place a year-round financial burden on non-resident families accessing essential community spaces like the library or participating in recreational programs at South Mill pond. Options such as charging non-residents only after a certain length of stay (for example, after two hours), instituting fees only during peak times (after 5 p.m.), or implementing seasonal non-resident parking (e.g., during peak tourist season) would better target periods of high demand while still keeping the city welcoming and accessible.

As a parent from a neighboring town, my family regularly visits the Portsmouth Public Library and participates in youth programs and activities in the city. Put simply, we cannot afford to pay for parking every time we bring our child to learn, play, or participate in the community. These are not optional or luxury visits, rather opportunities for growth and connection that the entire Seacoast region should be able to share.

I also want to highlight an often-overlooked group that would be impacted by this proposal, the many workers who support Portsmouth's businesses but cannot afford to live within the city. As a former employee of a retail store on Congress Street, I know firsthand that workers rely on free parking options to make their jobs viable. The wages offered by restaurants, retailers, and small businesses do not allow many employees to absorb new parking costs. Before moving the pilot forward, I urge the Council to analyze how much of Portsmouth's workforce commutes from outside the city and depends on these free lots to make ends meet.

As a long-time Seacoast resident and a mother raising a young child on a carefully managed budget, I am deeply disappointed to see measures that would make it harder for families, workers, and community members across the region to participate in Portsmouth's public life. Portsmouth thrives because it serves not only its residents but also the broader community that learns, works, shops and contributes to Portsmouth's vibrancy in countless ways.

I respectfully ask that the Council reconsider this proposal and pursue solutions that protect residents' parking access without creating financial barriers for the many people who rely on Portsmouth's public amenities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz Moore, Kittery, ME

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

New Hampshire Soccer Club LLC
Attn: Caleb & Samantha Ginsberg
303 Bartlett Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603.721.9764)
ginsberg.caleb@gmail.com

December 10, 2025

Mayor Deaglan McEachern &
Portsmouth City Council
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801
cc: Karen Conard, City Manager

Re: ***Request for Permission to Host World Cup Watch Party on Pleasant Street with Street Closure (June 12, 2026)***

Dear Mayor McEachern & Portsmouth City Councilors:

We are reaching out on behalf of New Hampshire Soccer Club LLC (the "Club"), a recently formed local organization coordinating soccer related events throughout New Hampshire to benefit local communities.

As part of our early efforts to build community around our organization here in Portsmouth, and to celebrate the "beautiful game" and our wonderful town/state, we plan to host a series of [2026 World Cup](#) watch parties in Portsmouth and throughout the State (the men's World Cup is being held in the US for the first time in 30 years - a huge moment that many believe will be a catalyst for exponential soccer growth in the US - esp. youth participation). The US Men's National Team (Team USA) plays its first '26 World Cup match on **Friday, June 12, 2026 @9pm** - we would like to kick off our series of World Cup events around NH with an outdoor watch party on Pleasant Street in downtown Portsmouth (from State Street to Market Square/Congress). Given strong interest within the community for both the World Cup (esp. Team USA) and the sport of soccer more broadly, we anticipate a robust turnout for this event.

The late start time for Team USA's game on June 12th (9pm) is not lost on us. We would like to start the event earlier in the evening (~6pm) to accommodate families with young children, and build excitement towards the Team USA game kicking off at 9pm. We plan to have live music, a "local/NH celebrity" emcee, local food and beverage options, and some merch tents highlighting local business ... all in an effort to create a fun, festive, high energy environment for our wonderful community,

culminating with a historic game/moment for US soccer. We're working with local creative agency, [Trigger House](#), on execution of the event (e.g. staging, high pixel screens, speakers, staffing, logistics, etc.).

Here are the key event details in a few bullets:

- **Event Description:** 2026 World Cup Watch Party in Downtown Portsmouth (for Team USA's opening game of the World Cup). *This will be a FREE event, open to the public.*
- **Host Org:** New Hampshire Soccer Club LLC
- **Date:** Friday, June 12, 2026
- **Time:** 6-11pm (Team USA game starts @9pm)
- **Location:** Pleasant Street - from State St. to Market Square/Congress St. (*street closure requested*). See map attached with specific area highlighted.
- **Parking/Traffic:** In order to reduce traffic congestion and parking issues in the immediate area, we plan to encourage attendees to walk/bike to the event, use public transportation, carpool, and/or parking elsewhere (e.g. Islington, Creek Neighborhood, etc.) and walk downtown. Also happy to coordinate shuttle service if helpful.
- **Boston World Cup Committee:** We're working with FIFA's World Cup organizing committee in Boston to secure official FIFA 2026 World Cup assets for the event (e.g. merchandise and other swag, signage, etc.). Portsmouth would be designated an official FIFA World Cup watch site.
- **Insurance:** Club to provide required certificate of insurance, naming City of Portsmouth as certificate holder and additional insured.
- **Club Volunteers for Street Clean Up:** Club has a significant number of eager volunteers ready to assist with trash pick up on Pleasant Street following the event.
- **Club POC:** Caleb Ginsberg (603.721.9764 / ginsberg.caleb@gmail.com)

Many thanks in advance for your review and consideration. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions and/or next steps. We look forward to working with you on what is sure to be a memorable event for this community!

Cheers,

Caleb & Samantha Ginsberg

December 15, 2025

Dear Mayor McEachern,

Due to unforeseen family obligations, I am submitting my formal resignation from the Arts and Cultural Commission which is effective immediately.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve my community, but I am unable to commit to the meetings the way I originally intended.

Thank you,

Mandela Pruet

African Burying Ground Memorial Park Stewardship Committee

Committee Recommendations

Adopted by the Committee – November 17, 2025

In January 2024, the City Council established the Mayor's Blue Ribbon African Burying Ground Memorial Park Stewardship Committee, (the "African Burying Ground Committee"). The current African Burying Ground Committee is a later iteration of the African Burying Ground Committee first established in 2004 following the discovery of the burial site on Chestnut Street.

Over the last 20 years, the purposes and work of the African Burying Ground Committee have evolved and changed depending on the tasks presented, e.g., memorial design, fund raising, construction and reinterment of remains etc. Looking forward, the African Burying Ground Committee has considered and discussed its mission and recommends the following to the incoming 2026-2027 City Council.

The descendant community decided in 2015 that they may want to learn more about the origins of those individuals buried on Chestnut Street and thus asked for a small sample of remains to be held in sacred trust in the hope that future technological innovation could yield additional research value. It is imperative to continue the important work of this Committee which is currently evaluating options to best steward the remains over the next 10 years or more.

Reestablish the African Burying Ground Committee in 2026 with a new name and reconsidered mission:

The Committee is dedicated to preserving and honoring the final resting places of peoples of African descent, enslaved, formerly enslaved and free. We strive to safeguard these sacred sites through respectful stewardship, community engagement, and educational initiatives. We recognize the profound historical and cultural significance of these hallowed grounds and will ensure they are protected for future generations. Given our shared and overlapping interest in maintaining, preserving and honoring the sites and the artistic and cultural elements within them, we anticipate close coordination with and benefit from the resources and expertise of the City's Department of Public Works, the Public Art Review Committee, and the Cemetery Committee.

One of the driving factors behind the proposed change to the mission is that there are multiple burial sites in Portsmouth with the remains of peoples of African descent. The African Burying Ground Committee has been receiving updates from City staff regarding

steps that will be taken to protect the African Burying Ground on Langdon Farm on Lafayette Road. Another factor is the robustness of the Public Art Review Committee and the Cemetery Committee. Chris Dwyer of the Public Art Review Committee, Susan Sterry of the Cemetery Committee and Corin Hallowell of the Public Works Department worked diligently to provide guidance on the maintenance of the art elements at Memorial Park on Chestnut Street. The African Burying Ground Committee's efforts do not need to be narrowly focused on maintaining the Memorial Park given these other resources.

Considering the recommended updates to the mission, a slight change to the African Burying Ground Committee's name is in order. The proposed "African Burying Grounds Preservation Committee" is close enough to the prior committee's name to flag it as a successor committee but encompasses the broader mission.

The African Burying Ground Committee recommends that membership continue in the same form. The current membership structure brings the necessary, valuable voices of the descendant community to the table as members regardless of Portsmouth residency. The current makeup of the committee includes a representative from each of the following organizations:

- Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Representative

- Seacoast African American Cultural Center Representative

- NAACP Representative

- Black Lives Matter Seacoast Representative A representative of the Cemetery Committee

- 2 Portsmouth Residents – Ron Baisden is currently serving, and we hope he will continue to serve. There is one vacancy.

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ACTION SHEET

8:30 A.M. – December 4, 2025

City Hall Conference Room A

PRESENT: Members: Vice Chairwoman Erica Wygonik, Public Works Director Peter Rice, Fire Chief William McQuillen, Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney, Stefanie Casella Planning Department, Mark Syracuse, Mary Lou McElwain, Alternate Barbara Sadick

City Staff: City Engineer Eric Eby, Parking Director Ben Fletcher, Project Manager Tyler Reese, Administrative Assistant Jefferson Lane

ACTION ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">None

- Roll Call
- Financial Report: **Voted** to accept the financial report dated October 31st, 2025.
- Public Comment Session: Duncan Craig (Sheafe Street parking concern), Tyler Garzo (Verbiage consideration in future meetings).
- Sheafe Street, request for additional measures to increase compliance with no parking area near Penhallow Street intersection, by resident. **Voted** to refer to staff for evaluation and report back at a future meeting
- Sagamore Avenue, request for traffic calming measures, by resident. **Voted** to refer to staff for evaluation and report back at future meeting.
- Police monthly accident report: Informational; no action required.
- Russell Street construction update: Informational; no action required.
- Congress Street construction update: Informational; no action required.
- Middle Street/Miller Avenue intersection update: Informational; no action required.
- Resident Access Parking Program update to Council: Informational; no action required.

Respectfully submitted by: Jefferson Lane

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A
CITY HALL, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 1 JUNKINS AVENUE

*Members of the public also had the opportunity to join the meeting via
Zoom*

8:30 AM

December 4th, 2025

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairwoman Erica Wygonik called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Public Works Director Peter Rice
Fire Chief William McQuillen
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Stefanie Casella, Planning Department
Vice Chairwoman Erica Wygonik
Mark Syracuse
Mary Lou McElwain
Barbara Sadick (alternate, voting)

Members Absent:

Chairman Andrew Bagley (excused)
Jane Mitchell-Pate (excused)

City Staff Present:

Eric Eby, City Engineer
Ben Fletcher, Parking Director
Tyler Reese, Project Manager
Jefferson Lane, DPW Administrative Assistant

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:05:53] Peter Rice moved to accept the financial reports dated October 31st, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. Following a question regarding the EV chargers at the Library, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

[00:06:51] There were two speakers: Duncan Craig, 175 State Street, spoke to add resident context to New Business Item A (Sheafe Street, request for additional measures to increase compliance with no parking area near Penhallow Street intersection); Tyler Garzo, 62 McKinley Road, spoke to clarify the difference between the words "accident" and "crash", in hopes the Committee is more cognizant of verbiage in future meetings.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

(No public comment during Committee discussion without Committee approval.)

- A. [00:10:25] Sheafe Street, request for additional measures to increase compliance with no parking area near Penhallow Street intersection, by resident. Following a brief synopsis of the area by Eric Eby, Peter Rice moved to refer to staff for evaluation and report back at a future meeting, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. Following discussion of potential solutions, the motion was put to a vote, passing unanimously.
- B. [00:15:07] Sagamore Avenue, request for traffic calming measures, by resident. Eric Eby described the affected area of Sagamore and elaborated on the resident's concern of varying speed limits. Mark Syracuse moved to refer to staff for evaluation and report back at future meeting, seconded by Peter Rice. Following discussion of the current street conditions and criteria for establishing speed limits, the motion was put to a vote, passing unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [00:21:06] Police monthly crash report, follow-up on E-bike safety
- B. [00:25:19] 2 Russell Street construction update
- C. [00:27:03] Congress Street construction update
- D. [00:30:48] Middle Street/Miller Avenue intersection update
- E. [00:31:05] Resident Access Parking Program update to Council

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. [00:32:49] Jessica's Law reminder
- B. [00:35:08] January meeting canceled
- C. [00:35:25] Pedestrian crossing at Maplewood Avenue/Deer Street

X. ADJOURNMENT

[00:39:03] Peter Rice moved to adjourn, seconded by Stefanie Casella. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chairwoman Erica Wygonik adjourned the meeting at 9:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jefferson Lane
Administrative Assistant II, Department of Public Works