

Final
MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
October 3, 2025 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Anne Weidman, Bob Marchewka, Anna Howard, Ben VanCamp, City Manager Karen Conard, Chair Tom Watson, Andrew Ward, Phil Cohen Vice Chair Sarah Lachance, Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley; Jacob Lehoux, Councilor Vince Lombardi

Excused Absence:

Absent:

City Staff: Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

Chair Watson opened the meeting at 7:30 am.

Chair Watson invited a motion to accept the minutes of the August 1st meeting. Motion to accept the minutes of the August 1st meeting made by *Commissioner Marchewka* and seconded by *Commissioner Howard*. Motion passed.

Office of Economic Development Update: *S. Clancy*

- Economic activity has entered the traditional fall cadence.
- Sunny weather and multiple festivals and events around the City are keeping the visitor volumes high
- The EDO continues to field inquiries into opening new businesses in both retail and restaurant sectors
- A third “co-living” residential project has been approved for the downtown area. (McNabb Properties)

Commissioner Weidman lead a discussion of the findings of the Social District working group. Assistant Mayor Kelley advised that the City Council added the Social District question to the November election ballot. A robust discussion ensued with *Chair Watson* concluding the recommendation to be forwarded to the City Council on October 6th. The motion to move the recommendation to City Council was made by *Vice Chair Lachance*, seconded by *Assistant Mayor Kelley* and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Weidman provided an update on the MP consultant’s (Utile) timeline of gathering data, drafting findings, and sharing findings with relevant City commissions (EDC and others) for feedback. This will happen in the January-February 2026 time frame.

Commissioner Ward provided an update from the Master Plan working group which entailed a review of the previously gathered information. *Commissioner Ward* further advised that next steps include refining the EDC goals down to four and then working to create recommendations around the final goals, all to be presented to the full EDC at the November 7th EDC meeting.

City Council update:

Assistant Mayor Kelley & Councilor Lombardi provided a high-level update on the City Council’s work in the areas of zoning and housing.

Public Comment: N/A

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

A full recording of this meeting can be found on the City’s website.

Submitted by,
Sean Clancy
Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development