

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

November 7, 2025 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Tom Watson, Vice Chair Sarah Lachance, Jacob Lehoux, Councilor Vince Lombardi, Anne Weidman, Ben VanCamp, Andrew Ward

Excused Absence: Bob Marchewka, Anna Howard, City Manager Karen Conard, Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley

Absent: Phil Cohen

City Staff: Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

Chair Watson opened the meeting at 7:30 am.

Chair Watson provided informational updates regarding a planned tour of the Treadwell Mansion Boutique Hotel scheduled for Wednesday November 12th as well as the December EDC meeting taking place at Portsmouth High School with a start time of 8:00 am.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 3rd meeting by *Commissioner Ward* and seconded by *Commissioner Lehoux* and the motion passed.

Office of Economic Development Update: *S. Clancy*

- New restaurants continue to fill vacant spaces city wide; Ramen Club, 3 Point Bar & Grill, etc.
- New retail stores continue to open in the downtown area: i.e. Soft as a Grape (based in MA)
- Hotels report a strong September and October conference bookings.
- City projects and private construction projects continue to take advantage of the favorable weather conditions

Commissioner Ward lead a discussion of the final EDC Master Plan recommendations. There was a friendly amendment made by *Vice Chair Lachance* which was accepted. A motion was made to adopt the recommendations submitted by the Master Plan working group. The motion was made by *Vice Chair Lachance*, seconded by *Councilor Lombardi*, and the motion passed.

Chamber Collaborative Update – *B. VanCamp*

- Catapult Seacoast (young professionals’ organization) was awarded the inaugural Young Professionals Organization of the Year award by StayWorkPlayNH
- Catapult is hosting their annual “10 to Watch” young professionals’ event on Wednesday November 12th
- The Vintage Christmas promotional effort including trolley transportation will be back in downtown Portsmouth this year as well as the Chamber’s Holiday “Shop and Stroll” event. This year, the event will precede the Holiday tree lighting and parade.
- The Chamber Collaborative has partnered with Livability.com to create and distribute a relocation magazine and digital presence

City Council update - *Councilor Lombardi* provided a high-level update on the City Council’s work in the areas encumbrance ordinances, and the possible creation of a permanent Energy Advisory Committee.

Public Comment: N/A

Motion to adjourn by *Councilor Lombardi*, seconded by *Commissioner Weidman*, and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 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
Economic Development Commission: 11-7-25

Approved: 12-5-25