

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

August 1, 2025 7:30 AM- 8:30 AM

Members Present: Jen Scumaci, Anne Weidman, Bob Marchewka, Jacob Lahoux, Anna Howard, Ben VanCamp, City Manager Karen Conard, City Councilor Vince Lombardi

Member Present (Zoom): Vice Chair Sarah Lachance

Absent:

Excused Absence: Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley, Chair Tom Watson, Andrew Ward, Phil Cohen

City Staff: Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

Vice Chair Lachance, joined by Zoom and advised that a travel delay had prevented her from attending this meeting in person. *Vice Chair Lachance* confirmed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the July 11th meeting made by *Commissioner Marchewka* seconded by *Commissioner Lahoux*. Roll call vote taken: all present voted “aye” except for *Councilor Lombardi* and *Commissioner Weidman* who abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Office of Economic Development Update – *S. Clancy*

- There is a new public art installation on Peirce Island, Serenity Spiral
- OED is collaborating with staff to support Cable Commission in surveying businesses regarding internet connectivity experience in distinct parts of the city
- Current CRM capabilities are being improved to increase two-way communication with business community
- City-wide Master Plan consultants plan to attend the Farmer’s Market on August 2nd
- OED and Chamber are working with Eversource to provide free energy audits to city businesses

Chamber Update: *B. VanCamp*

- Locals Belong Here initiative organizational meeting scheduled for Monday August 4th
- *Streetlife!* - Annual celebration is scheduled for Wednesday August 13th at Bohenko Gateway Park
- Art ‘Round Town Friday August 1st 5:00-8:00 pm

City Council update: *Councilor Lombardi*

- Coakley Road and the South Mill playground projects continue to progress through City Council approval process
- The Public Art Review Committee has been granted approval to raise funds for new sculpture in Bohenko Gateway Park

Vice Chair Lachance (on behalf of Chair Watson) advised the EDC that two working groups have been appointed.

The first is a Master Plan working group consisting of *Commissioners Ward, Marchewka, and Cohen*. *Commissioner Ward* has been designated as the convener. The MP working group will strive to provide recommendations for the full EDC at the September meeting and then make a final recommendation to the Planning Board following the October EDC meeting.

Commissioner Weidman reported that she has been meeting citizens (300+ individual interviews) as well as small groups in her role as Community coordinator for Utile (Master Plan consultant).

The second working group is charged with researching and making recommendations regarding the new HB 467 which allows for Social Districts in NH municipalities. The working group consists of *Commissioner Weidman, Commissioner Howard, and Ben VanCamp* with *Commissioner Weidman* serving as the convener. The SD working group will work with the following timeline: present findings and recommendations to the full EDC at the September 5th meeting and final recommendations to City Council at the October 3rd meeting.

Public Comment: N/A

Motion to adjourn by *Commissioner Marchewka*, seconded by *Commissioner Lahoux*. Through a roll call vote, the votes were unanimous to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 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