



Cable and Broadband Internet Commission

Law Library, 4th Floor at City Hall
1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH
Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve the Minutes of February 11, 2026
3. Update on PPMTV
4. Overview of Permitting Process for Small Cell Installations
5. Proposed Updates to Zoning Regulations
6. Other Business
7. Public Comment
8. Meeting Schedule
9. Adjournment

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



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room A, City Hall
1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Attendees in Person: Rob Capone, Chair (Capone); Jeff Abrams (Abrams); Gary Lowe (Lowe); Amrishi Chicooree (Chicooree); and Alternate Jim Wilson (Wilson)

Attendees by Zoom: Luis Rodriguez (Rodriguez)

Staff: Suzanne M. Woodland, Regulatory Counsel (Regulatory Counsel Woodland)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. **Elect a Chair:** Lowe moved to nominate Wilson but Regulatory Counsel pointed out that Wilson was only an alternate at this point and better practice would be to nominate a full voting member. No second. Abrams moved to nominate Capone as Chair. Chicooree seconded the motion. Roll call in the affirmative by all Commissioners, except for Lowe who opposed. The motion was approved.
- III. **Approval of minutes of the December 10, 2025 and January 14, 2026 meetings:** Lowe moved to approve the December 10, 2025 and January 14, 2026 minutes. Chicooree seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- IV. **Cell Phone Coverage Issues – Next Steps:** Regulatory Counsel Woodland advised that the Commission website now includes information from Verizon and AT&T regarding solutions if people are having poor coverage issues. Regulatory Counsel Woodland also thanked Wilson who brought to the Commission's attention that at a recent Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting, one of the committee members mentioned that there was less than ideal cellphone coverage in the West End of Portsmouth. The member was directed to the information on the website and the recorded meetings with carriers. A discussion ensued regarding the best way to further assist the EDC with this issue, and it was decided to arrange for a member of the Cable Commission to attend a future meeting of the EDC to share resources which the Cable Commission recently learned from Verizon and AT&T, along with providing a summary of resources and overview of what the Commission has recently learned from the carriers. The next meeting of the EDC is Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. Wilson stated that the carriers submit their coverage information

biannually to the SEC and the data is published and available from the State of New Hampshire on coverage maps which are detailed down to street segment areas. A consumer can access a link on this website to report any deficiencies in coverage directly to the FCC vs. dealing with the carriers, resulting in the consumer feeling more empowered. Wilson will provide Regulatory Counsel Woodland with link to the State of New Hampshire website who will send it to the Commissioners for their review before including it on the City of Portsmouth Commission website.

- V. Zoning Changes:** Wilson stated that he has a meeting scheduled with Assistant Planning Director Peter Stith regarding what the FCC suggests for model ordinances regarding cell towers as the City's current zoning ordinances are quite minimalistic. Wilson requested that this matter be included in the agenda for the next meeting. Regulatory Counsel Woodland provided a brief explanation of the process of amending a zoning ordinance.
- VI. Other Business, if any:** Wilson brought to the Commission's attention the City Council's adopted goals and vision. There was also a discussion of the master planning process and how communications infrastructure fits into that planning effort. The role of the City of Portsmouth Legislative Committee was also briefly discussed as it relates to the City advocating for certain legislative changes relative to communications infrastructure.

Wilson raised the issue of Comcast / Xfinity rates and a brief discussion ensued relative to the setting of rates. Regulatory Counsel Woodland and Wilson to have a follow up discussion.

Wilson asked about the status of PPMtv. Regulatory Counsel Woodland advised that she would follow-up with PPMtv and report back.

Wilson had a general comment stating that operating a 5G network is not particularly complicated or expensive in dissent to what is stated by the large carriers and the networks they are building are fragile and anti-resilient. He expressed interest in providing education to the Commission and discussing this topic at future meetings. It was decided to include time for this subject on future agendas.

- VII. Public Comment, If any:** There was no public comment.
- VIII. Schedule next meeting(s):** The next two (2) meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. and April 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- IX. Adjournment:** Capone moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m., Lowe seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was approved.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Zulkiewicz

Approved on: