FINAL

MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

October 2, 2026 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Andrew Ward, Vice Chair Sarah Lachance, Anne Weidman, Tom Watson, Bob Marchewka, Jason Goodrich, Ben VanCamp, Wendy Clement, Joshua Cyr, Councilor Flynn, Councilor Blalock

Absent (Excused): None

Absent (Not Excused): Phil Cohen

City Staff: City Manager Karen Conard, Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

Chair Ward entertained a motion to accept the EDC meeting minutes from September 11, 2026. The motion was made by *Commissioner Goodrich* and seconded by *Commissioner Marchewka* to accept the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

*Chair Ward o*pened a conversation about the newly formed Shuttle Loop and Public Transit Working Group EDC representative. *Commissioner Cyr* nominated *Commissioner Weidman* as the EDC representative to this group. The motion was seconded by *Commissioner Goodrich* and the motion passed unanimously. This new group will meet regularly starting in mid-October and present findings to the City Council in January 2027.

Office of Economic Development Update: *S. Clancy*

- The Artspace preliminary feasibility assessment for affordable artist live/works space will kick-off in January 2027
- There are four applications received for the Hanover Garage (Percent for Art) project (closes for proposals October 9, 2026)
- City officials met with the leadership of the Portsmouth Navy Shipyard and committed to cooperation and collaboration efforts
- The Resident & Downtown Workforce Parking Programs have been updated with an effective date of October 1, 2026.



RAPP and DWPP Flyers-6-All Changes

Director of Communication and Community Engagement, *M. Bohanan* presented a communications overview to the EDC and shared suggestions about how the EDC members could assist with City communication efforts (two-way).



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nications - Philosop

A robust discussion followed with questions about how to simplify communications specifically around the downtown worker parking program. Commissioner Clement asked about the ability for the city to produce and distribute a "one-page" parking guide for new downtown employees.

Jay Bisognano, CEO of Torrington Properties presented an update on the Seacoast landing project which is being developed in neighboring Newington, NH. He provided an update on conversations with Costco as one anchor tenant and a second large national retailer which is confidential at this point in time. A discussion ensued covering the Portsmouth's development environment in general and thoughts about the rental housing sector.

Working Group Update – *Chair Ward, Commissioner Cyr, Commissioner Weidman*

A group consisting of *Chair Ward, Commissioner Cyr, Commissioner, Commissioner Goodrich and Ben VanCamp* will start researching/benchmarking cities that are similar to Portsmouth with a goal of finding challenges (and solutions) to current issues or opportunities for the EDC to focus efforts on.

City Council Update: *Councilor Flynn /Councilor Blalock*

- The Sister City Committee was successful in establishing a special revenue mechanism to allow for hosting Sister City visitors in the future (specifically students from Santarcangelo, Italy)
- The Fleet Street project was approved to prove one-way traffic with a contra flow bicycle lane, construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2027
- A Housing Action Plan was approved by the City Council in September

Chamber Collaborative Update – *B. VanCamp*

- The "new" GoPortsmouth.com web page is live and was shared with EDC members
- The Chamber's non-profit foundation is working with a consultant to identify gaps in our childcare services and how businesses can support actionable projects
- NH Chronicle is scheduled to film Art Round Town activities tonight
- Scarecrows of the Port are scheduled to be put up on Sunday morning October 4th - volunteers welcome
- Annual Business Awards will be held on Wednesday December 2nd

Events Calendar - Chamber Sponsored Programs

Public Comment – none

Motion to adjourn by *Commissioner Marchewka seconded* by *Councilor Cyr.* The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

A full recording of this meeting is available on the City's YouTube Channel

Submitted by,
Sean Clancy

Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development

Next Meetings: Nov. 6th, at Portsmouth High School (CTE), Dec. 4th at City Hall