

MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

June 5, 2026 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

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

Absent (Excused): City Manager Karen Conard

Absent (Not Excused): Phil Cohen,

City Staff: Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

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

Vice Chair Lachance entertained a motion to accept the EDC meeting minutes from May 1, 2026. The motion was made by *Commissioner Watson* and seconded by *Commissioner Cyr*. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ward confirmed the summer meeting schedule update as follows:

- July 10, 2026 - Meeting will be held at Pease Development Authority Airport terminal (8:00 am)
- August 7, 2026 – Conference Room A

Chamber Strategic Initiative Update – *B. VanCamp*

Ben VanCamp provided a brief update (due to time constraints) outlining three technology initiatives which will be in place between July and September of 2026.

- a) An update to the GoPortsmouth.com tourism website will allow visitors to interact with tourism information and customize trip/visit plans based on their preferences. A calendar feature will be added to allow the site to automatically “pull in” arts, cultural, historical, and tourism related events providing a much needed one-stop for visitors and residents alike to have better visibility to what is happening in Portsmouth.
- b) The Chamber has been developing a relocation guide to assist employers in attracting employees as well as people seeking to relocate to Portsmouth. The partnership is with a national firm; Livability.com. There will be a digital version and a paper version of this resource.
- c) The Chamber is partnering with the City as well as the PDA and the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce to purchase visitor tracking software which will provide data. This anonymous collated date will support more targeted tourism and event marketing efforts.



June2026_Presentation.pptx

[Events Calendar - Chamber Sponsored Programs](#)

Vice Chair Ward requested updates from the working groups:

- 1) The Future of Work – Infrastructure needs, Workforce needs, Smart City, Education (CTE)
Working Group: *Councilor Blalock, Vice Chair Lachance, Commissioner Cyr, Commissioner Goodrich*
Commissioner Cyr reported that the WG digging into researching other communities that are looking at “future of work”. He is committed to tapping into the EDC members interest and passions as well as determining the needs of Portsmouth relative to our workforce, infrastructure, municipal goals, etc.
- 2) Parking & Transportation
Working Group: *Commissioner Weidman, Commissioner Clement, S. Clancy*
Anne Weidman reported that this WG has determined these issues are being addressed by appointed commissioners and staff. The WG recommends that the EDC monitor these efforts for any cross-over of unmet needs of the business community. At which time, the EDC can choose to take up or champion unmet needs in the future. Additionally, *Commissioner Weidman* suggested that the EDC have a seat on the (planned) transportation task force that is funded in the FY 27-32 CIP.
- 3) Arts, Culture, and Enrichment
Working Group: *Councilor Flynn, Commissioner Howard*
Commissioner Howard reported that this WG has determined these issues are being addressed by appointed commissioners and staff. The WG recommends that the EDC monitor these efforts for any cross-over of unmet needs of the business community. At which time, the EDC can choose to take up or champion unmet needs in the future.

City Council Update – *Councilors Flynn and Blalock*

- Residential Area Parking Program pilot is moving forward from City Council
- A new Hive themed mural has been accepted as part of the Percent for Art program for middle school (2027)
- The City’s 2nd artificial turf field is ready and there is a ribbon cutting scheduled for June 15th

A general discussion ensued on a range of topics including the asking if the City has taken a position on data center construction, how to be more connected (integrated) with the Pease TradePort and what role the EDC should play regarding very large developments such as the McIntyre property and the Seacoast Landing proposal in Newington relative to impact on the downtown business landscape, any opportunities to connect with the USS New Mexico crew and spouses who will be in our community for an approximately two years.

Office of Economic Development Update: *S. Clancy*

- Congress Street Construction is scheduled to be complete on Friday June 12th
- COAST received a \$1M donation from the N.H. Charitable Foundation for their new facility in Dover
- The Scotia Prince Ferry folks requested a letter of support for their proposed start-up operation to include a Portsmouth terminal and the mayor obliged
- Americal Cruise Lines will be back this summer and into the fall with at least 10 visits in 2026

Commissioner Goodrich –

Advised the EDC that he and *Commissioner Weidman* sit on the Seacoast Online Readers Advisory group and he offered to bring any critical issues from the EDC to this group for coverage or increased coverage

Public Comment – Resident, *Jim Wilson* shared some historical information regarding the origins of Artificial Intelligence back in 1958 and commented positively on the Master Plan process

Next Meetings: July 10th at Pease, August 7th at City Hall, September meeting will move to Friday September 11th at City Hall

Motion to adjourn by *Commissioner Howard* seconded by *Councilor Blalock*. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44am.

A full recording of this meeting can be found on the city website.
[Economic Development Commission | City of Portsmouth](#)

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