



Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sister Cities

Conference Room A, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth and Zoom

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Zoom recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EghBCnJEtwI>

Draft Minutes

1. **Review and approve past minutes (Jan 14, 2026) – hold for next meeting**
2. **Old Business**
 - Permanent Committee Ordinance – approved by Council at March 16 meeting
 - Update on Sister City Fund – Seacord and Sullivan will draft the template letter.
 - Letter from Russia – Similar reply as to Hungarian inquiry. Committee is focusing on active relationships
 - Santarcangelo Mayor visit to Durham and UNH Film Festival Cinema Ritrovato
<https://www.cinemaritrovatonh.com/2026-edition.html>
 - Arriving Fri afternoon, departing Mon afternoon
 - TMH Lounge at 10 am
 - Reception at PPL, 2-3 pm

DeStefano's providing 12 sandwiches and 10 calzone, all cut in half, including vegetarian and a few dairy-free chicken salad sandwiches; vegetable platters and fruit from Hannaford; Popovers' Portsmouth Orange Cake; Two Poets chocolates made for Cinema Ritrovato; Seltzers, coffee and tea from the library

- Mayors exchange gifts (chart clocks*)
- Tiziano Corbelli (Santarcangelo)*
- Filippo Sacchetti (Santarcangelo)

- Laura Facondini (Santarcangelo)
- Alice Parma (Santarcangelo)*
- Luca Cancellieri (Santarcangelo)
- Carrickfergus discussion with Friends Forever – Delegation traveling to Carrickfergus on April 2 and will identify the contacts we should have for the relationship. Both agreed to work together on future visits/opportunities.
- Portsmouth UK 100th
 - PHS chorus is sending a video of their performance of “On Shining Waters” song
 - Mayor videotaped greetings; forwarded to Lord Mayor
- Update on Nelson, New Zealand – Friends Forever alum from Nelson may be a connection.
- Update on correspondence with Hungary -- none
- Update on Halifax, Nova Scotia – Mayor McEachern had only a brief conversation with Halifax Mayor
- Update on SCI Roundtable on sports – Friese to follow-up on examples Portsmouth could develop