



**Portsmouth Sister City Committee
Conference Room A
City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH
Thursday June 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm**

For the Zoom recording: <https://youtu.be/3NjgYHnucQg>

MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Mary Carey Foley, Ben VanCamp, Stephanie Seacord.
Staff: Christine Friese. Excused: Robert Sullivan, Robert Conard.

1. Review and approve past minutes (April) – On a motion by Friese, seconded by Seacord the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Old Business
 - Update on correspondence with Hungary -- Adrienn Ádám from the Mayor's office in Szolnok has suggested a Zoom meeting. Christine will find a convenient time and send a Zoom invitation for any committee members who might be able to attend.
 - Update on Halifax, Nova Scotia – Seacord volunteered to draft a letter from Mayor McEachern inviting Mayor Andy Fillmore to consider a formal Friendship City agreement. Letter will be reviewed at the July committee meeting. Sullivan had suggested the Committee take a self-funded trip. Recommendation is to coordinate that with the Mayor's office in Halifax.
 - Update on Sister City Fund – Friese planned to meet with the Finance Department (Michael Tucker) to determine what additional steps were needed to establish the fund so Councilor Blalock could submit the draft donation letter (version dated April 20, 2026) to the City Manager as an informational item from her at the July 13 City Council meeting.
3. New Business
 - Letter from PHS alumnus – Letter to Mayor from Air Force member details how much participating in a Nichinan Sister City/Sister School trip and hosting students meant to him in enhancing his ability to be a global citizen. Revisited in May, toured the school, reunited and was "treated like family." PHS valedictorian also related his experience in Nichinan. Happy our Sister City Committee is reinforcing these connections.
 - Request for photos from SCI – Seacord shared Sister City images for the committee to consider to submit to SCI for their 70th anniversary album. SCI provided a template which Seacord will submit by the June 26 deadline. Also shared a copy of the Hajimari project including Nichinan-Portsmouth that SCI/Japan Roundtable put together. Copy donated to Portsmouth Public Library.

- Thanks to PHS Principal Steve Chinosi – Chinosi was not able to attend the meeting so Seacord will deliver the mounted Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail maps to him with the Committee's thanks for his commitment to the Committee and to forming PHS students to be global citizens. Inviting the new principal Chris Tebo to meet at the next meeting.
- Santarcangelo light installation – VanCamp mentioned the donation of the art light installation and the Sister City role in sharing the story in signage and any future ribbon-cutting. Vaughan Mall landscaping will be done in Spring 2027. Seacord will draft a letter from the Mayor giving Mayor Sacchetti an update. Committee should brainstorm a reciprocal gift (something one might see on the streets of Portsmouth) if a delegation were going there.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Next meeting: July 16, 2026 at 5 pm.