

PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting January 28, 2026

Call to Order	A regular meeting of the Portsmouth Economic Development Committee (PEDC) was called to order by Chair Joseph Forgione at 5:30 p.m. on January 28, 2026 in the Portsmouth Room at the Portsmouth Town Hall.
Roll Call	Members Present: Emil Cipolla, Dan Corrigan, Joseph Forgione (Chair), Lex Gardner, Philip Genereux, Richard Hood, Steve Johnson (Vice Chair), Raymond Keller, Pete Lankarge, Michael Mineau (Secretary), Frank Rego, Peter Tyer-Witek (Youth Representative), and Richard Talipsky (ex officio). Members Absent: None. Other attendees: None. Town Council Liaisons: Keith Hamilton (absent) and Mary McDowell (absent). Public Attendees: None.
Guest Speakers	N/A.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve November 19, 2025 minutes by Frank Rego subject to changing Peter Rego to Frank Rego, seconded by Pete Lankarge. Approved unanimously subject to amendment.
Correspondence	None.
Chair's Welcome and Report	None.
Officer Elections	Joseph Forgione explained positions and the voting process. For the Chair position, Mr. Forgione was nominated by Steve Johnson, seconded by Pete Lankarge, and elected unanimously. For the Vice Chair position, Mr. Johnson was nominated by Raymond Keller, seconded by Michael Mineau, and elected unanimously. Philip Genereux had also nominated Mr. Mineau for Vice Chair, which Mr. Mineau respectfully declined. For the Secretary position, Mr. Mineau was nominated by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Genereux, and elected unanimously.
Director of Business Development's Report	Richard Talipsky presented an update on the tradename database now being live on the Secretary of State website, as well as the Buy Local program, which has over 150 businesses registered.
Old Business	None
New Business	1. Aquidneck Island Gas Pipeline and Connections letter This subcommittee, comprised of Emil Cipola, Joseph Forgione, and Steve Johnson, discussed their efforts to conduct research into the issue and prepare

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	<p>and issue a detailed 6-page memorandum to the Town Council recommending supporting natural gas availability in Portsmouth and opposing a moratorium.</p> <p>2. Tax Stabilization Summary</p> <p>Richard Talipsky discussed a 2-page outline of the proposal for a tax stabilization ordinance, how Portsmouth is enabled by statute to use enterprise zoning, past unsuccessful efforts to implement enterprise zoning, and the benefits of this and limiting eligibility to manufacturing. The Committee discussed calculating the benefits of this proposal.</p> <p>3. Review Committee Process, Current Sub-Committees, and Calendar for 2026</p> <p>The Committee discussed the existing subcommittees, Buy-Local and Broadband, and invited input for additional subcommittees. The Committee also discussed the process and requirements regarding filing of Minutes.</p> <p>4. Discussion of Possible New Incentives for 2026</p> <p>Peter Tyer-Witek suggested pitching an investor to build a candy shop as an alternative place for teenagers’ first place of employment besides Clement’s Marketplace, which currently employs a significant number of local teenagers. Emil Cipola started a discussion about implementing an internship program. Frank Rego will come to the next meeting with an outline of ideas for an internship program. Philip Genereux will send a list of questions and comments to Mr. Tyer-Witek regarding his idea and considerations for drafting a business plan. Steve Johnson discussed the following ideas: 1) “Ready, Set, Rhody”; 2) Melville/West Side Development; 3) Old Baypoint Facility (recently sold by Roger Williams University to a developer); and 4) the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>February 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Colonel Thomas F. Lee Community Room at the Portsmouth Police Department (2270 East Main Road).</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Philip Genereux, seconded by Pete Lankarge. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.</p>

Approved 3-18-2026