



PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

June 21, 2023

Call to Order	A regular meeting of the Portsmouth Economic Development Committee (PEDC) was called to order by Chair Steve Johnson at 5:30 pm on June 21, 2023, in the Portsmouth Room at Portsmouth Town Hall.
Roll Call	<p>Members in attendance: Emil Cipolla, Dan Corrigan, Joe Forgione, Timothy Grissett, Richard Hood, Steve Johnson, Raymond Keller, and Brian Conwell.</p> <p>Members absent: Michael Mineau and Theodore Pietz.</p> <p>Ex-Officio Richard Talipsky and Town Council Liaison Len Katzman were present.</p> <p>Guests: Amit Anand, Nancy Grieb, and Peter Roberts.</p>
Guest Speakers	None.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the April 19, 2023, minutes by Joe Forgione, seconded by Richard Hood. Unanimous approval.
Correspondence	None.
Chair's Report	Steve Johnson welcomed our new member, Brian Conwell.
Business Director's Report	Richard Talipsky reported that the Portsmouth Business Association (PBA) annual meeting is tomorrow (June 22) at Greenvale Vineyards and encouraged members of the PEDC to attend if available.
Old Business	<p>Broadband – In the absence of Ted Pietz, discussion was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>Information Systems Improvement – In the absence of Ted Pietz, discussion was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>PEDC Program of Work – Comprehensive Community Plan – Joe Forgione reported that he and Timothy Grissett reviewed Element 5 of the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) and prioritized several items. After a group discussion, additional items were added.</p> <p>Buy Local Plan – Richard Talipsky presented his Buy Local Plan and asked for PEDC feedback before it goes to the Town Council for approval. Motion to approve the Buy Local Plan as presented by Raymond Keller, seconded by Joe Forgione. Unanimous approval.</p> <p>Park Avenue Bike Path Event – Bike RI and Bike Newport will conduct a pilot concept “ride and stroll” on Park Avenue Saturday morning, September 9. Chair Steve Johnson apologized for the incorrectly worded agenda item title. After discussion by members and guests, the group consensus was for the PEDC to take no action on this item.</p>

<p>New Business</p>	<p>Economic Development Department and PEDC Annual Report – Richard Talipsky presented a draft of the combined Business Development Department and PEDC annual report for review.</p> <p>Town Tax Rate Structure Review and Analysis – At a recent Town Council meeting, one of the Town Council members asked if the PEDC could look at the Town’s tax rate structure. After discussion of the pros and cons of setting the commercial property tax rate higher than the residential rate when residential tax assessments increase more than commercial assessments, and the commercial tax rate lower in years after commercial tax assessments increase more than residential, the group consensus was to not take any action on this item.</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>The group discussed ways to make PEDC meeting minutes more readily available to the general public. The group consensus was to add this topic as an agenda item for the next meeting.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>July 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Portsmouth Room at the Town Hall.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Joe Forgione, seconded by Timothy Grissett. Unanimous approval. Adjourned at 7:37 pm.</p>
<p>Submitted for Approval</p>	<p>Timothy Grissett, Secretary </p>
<p>Approval</p>	<p>Motion by: <i>Richard Hood</i> Seconded by: <i>Dan Corrigan</i> Vote: <i>Unanimous</i></p>
<p>Submitted for the Record</p>	<p>Steve Johnson, Chair Date:  <i>7-9-23</i></p>