

## PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of Meeting

October 18, 2023

<b>Call to Order</b>	A regular meeting of the Portsmouth Economic Development Committee (PEDC) was called to order by Chair Steve Johnson at 5:33 pm on October 18, 2023 in the Portsmouth Room at Portsmouth Town Hall.
<b>Roll Call</b>	<p>Members in attendance: Brian Conwell, Joe Forgione, Richard Hood, Chair Steve Johnson, Acting Secretary Michael Mineau, and Vice Chair Theodore Pietz.</p> <p>Members absent: Emil Cipolla, Secretary Timothy Grissett, Dan Corrigan, and Raymond Keller.</p> <p>Ex-Officio Member: Richard Talipsky was present.</p> <p>Town Council Liaisons: Kevin Aguiar and Len Katzman were absent.</p> <p>Guests in attendance: Amit Anand</p>
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	None.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Motion to approve the September 20, 2023 minutes by Dick Hood, seconded by Joe Forgione. Unanimous approval.
<b>Correspondence</b>	None.
<b>Chair's Report</b>	Steve Johnson discussed reaching out to Portsmouth High School concerning the PEDC Youth Representative vacancy.
<b>Business Director's Report</b>	Rich Talipsky will present a Glen Manor House report at the next meeting. The remainder of his report is covered under Old and New Business.
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Broadband</b> – Ted Pietz reported that the Statewide Broadband Advisory Committee met on September 19, 2023. The three Aquidneck Island municipalities are working with Mission Broadband to take advantage of funding opportunities. Several bid applications are anticipated to compete with the current incumbent provider. Commerce RI has announced a new grant for advertising low-income subsidies which may be applied for by municipalities or their agents.</p> <p><b>Information Systems Improvement</b> – Rich Talipsky discussed the need to seek more support for the IT Director, and the need to assess current technical deficiencies in order to prepare a statement of work to present to the Town Council. Joe Forgione suggested that the Town Departments hold a working group meeting to discuss IT needs and deficiencies.</p> <p><b>PEDC Program of Work – Comprehensive Community Plan</b> – Discussion concerning previously prioritized items.</p>

