

CITY of PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 17, 2019
CITY HALL—CONFERENCE ROOM A

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Kathy Bergeron, Chair
Present: Kathy Bergeron, Rick Becksted, Kathleen Boduch, Larry Cataldo, Chase Hagaman, Cliff Lazenby,
Absent: Paul Mannle, excused

The Chair announced the resignation of Kelly Weinstein due to scheduling conflicts. That leaves a vacancy in this Steering Committee. Contact the city Clerk's office for information and an application. Applications are kept for a year.

New Business:

VOTING/ ELECTIONS: BARBARA WARD

Barbara Ward, Board of Elections Registrar At-Large, addressed the committee and audience about issues with voting in NH. Of considerable concern in the State is the issue of a voter's domicile, the definition of where a voter resides, the need for clarification of the words domicile vs. residence. There is some concern that that issue may create confusion especially with students. More information will be forthcoming before the next election. Another issue is the expansion of where people will be able to register, e.g. DMV locations, etc. The State voter representatives also want to insist that there is a paper trail in each voting place in the State so that a contested election's results could be analyzed and verified. A note was made that Accuvote machines are no longer being manufactured and parts for the machines we do have may not be available. The State needs to get new machines.

The absentee balloting processes also need clarification in the instructions and regarding envelope use, ensuring that a ballot is not rejected because of a missing signature.

Barbara also reminded that Undeclared voters who vote as a party member in a primary remember to change their affiliation back to Undeclared before leaving the polling place. If someone forgot to do that at the last Primary, they can let the City Clerk's office know they want their enrollment returned to Undeclared before the next election or Primary, or else they will have to vote in the primary of the party that they last declared.

Citizens can get involved at the polls or with preregistration. Contact Barbara at 610-7272 or Kelly Barnaby, the City Clerk, or your local registrar's office for more information.

The committee felt National Night Out May be a good opportunity for us to help getting out information about registration and voting.

VOLUNTEERISM: CHASE HAGAMAN

There are many varied volunteer opportunities available throughout the region. Chase highlighted some:

City Boards and commissions

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

Cross Roads House

The Music Hall

Haven (crisis center working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking, and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives)

Discover Portsmouth and Portsmouth Historical Society

The Gundalow Company

Gather (the seacoast food pantry)

The Seacoast Repertory Theater Company (the Rep)

PMAC (Portsmouth Music and Arts Center)

Chase has posted a packet about each of these in PDF format on the Citywide Neighborhood Committee site.

You can find information about vacancies on City boards and descriptions of those positions at the Boards and Commission link on the Portsmouth City website.

NEIGHBORHOODS

LARRY—ISLINGTON STREET—There will be a meeting about the Islington Street Corridor at the library at 6:30 on April 25th.

reported that work on Hanover Street and its side streets will continue for the next 4 months.

There will be free parking at the new garage for neighbors in the Brewster to Bridge Street area during construction.

Larry also reported that signage of the petition supporting the Parking Pilot is “going well.”

Knocking on the neighborhood doors has been a daunting task. They hope to present the petition at the 5/2 Parking/Traffic/Safety Committee meeting.

CLIFF—SOUND BARRIERS ALONG THE I-95 CORRIDOR—Cliff addressed the Sound Barrier project status. The city is first on the list to get barriers, if the state votes for them. Funding has been set aside by the city. A remaining issue is how they will be paid for by the State, with auto registration fee hikes being considered along with gas tax and/or raised toll fees (which have been voted down.)

UNITIL visited one of the prospective barrier sites and determined they need to erect Jersey barriers around a substation near Panaway Manor for now and take it down next year.

Jon noted that on Woodbury Avenue, above I-95, there is a residential quality stockade fence that is falling. Maintenance of those fences by the NHDOT is an ongoing issue and their needed repair may help move the sound barrier issue along.

JON —CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD—Jon said they are meeting with City staff about traffic on Bartlett and Cate Streets. Advocates for the North Mill Pond group has been resurrected to get some help, particularly with the shoreline. They want to continue hosting the regatta and would like help with shoreline cleanups, picnic tables, gravel for parking lots, benches.

CLIFF noted that Market Street extension trees and sidewalks are lovely, but many of the new trees were destroyed during the winter. In the Albacore Park area there is not enough room for bikers, and there should be consideration of concrete vs blacktop sidewalks on the area. He will report those tissues to Click N’ Fix. Residents of Echo Avenue are happy with the new street design.

PARKING PRINCIPLES MEETING

Cliff addressed the recent meeting of the Land Use Board and the City Council regarding parking, considering that the 2012 parking rules need an update. There is a need to look at the “big picture,” the issues that would drive changes, e.g. employee parking that needs change and improvement, policies that need change.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT—KATHY BERGERON

It will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Kathy will contact the fire and police departments.

WARD FORUMS—KATHY BERGERON

Timing is tight. Forums for Wards 4 and 5 may have to be held in the fall. It was mentioned that Fire Station 2 had a community room that we might ask to use at some time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28.

Respectfully submitted
Kathleen Boduch, Secretary