

**City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire**  
**Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force**  
**Remote meeting via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 1, 2020; 2:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order; Determination of Quorum**

Co-Chair James Petersen determined a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00. Karen Conard, City Manager, represented staff and was the moderator. Patience “PG” Horton took minutes. This short, typically intense meeting lasted three-quarters of an hour.

Task Force present:

1. Co-chair James Petersen, Principal, Petersen Engineering
2. Co-chair Mark Stebbins, Principal, PROCON, Inc. (Hotel Industry)
3. Senator Martha Fuller Clark, NH State Senate District 21
4. Valerie Rochon, President, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth
5. Deb Anthony, Gather Pantry Market (Non-profit)
6. Russ Grazier, PMAC (Non-profit)
7. Ann Birner, Pharmacist (retired) (Health Care Professionals)
8. John Golumb, Poco’s Bow Street Cantina (Restaurants)
9. Samantha Finigan, Gus & Ruby Letterpress (Retail Business)
10. Alan Gold, Economic Development Commission
11. Sarah Lachance, Economic Development Commission
12. City Staff, Health Officer Kim McNamara
13. Karen Conard, City Manager
14. Kathryn Lynch, (Non-profit Health-care Organization)
15. Karen Bouffard, The Real Estate Market, Inc. (Real Estate)
16. Jim Lee, REMAX Shoreline (Real Estate)
17. Nathan Moss, Citizen-at-large

Task Force absent:

18. Marylyn Morin, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (Health Care Professional)
19. Dr. Bianca Monteiro, York Pulmonary Associates (Health Care Professional)
20. Jeffrey Goss, The Clipper Tavern (Restaurants)
21. Joe Scarlotto (Restaurants)

City Staff present:

1. Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
2. Todd Germain, Fire Chief
3. Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Manager
4. Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer
5. Joe Almeida, Facilities Manager

Also present:

1. Kathleen Cavalaro, Seacoast Rep, Independent Working Group
2. Pedra Huda, City Councilor
3. Cliff Lazenby, City Councilor

4. John Tabor, City Councilor
5. Shawn Wheeler
6. Dinanroom

### **I. Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2020**

Ann Birner moved to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2020. Alan Gold seconded the motion. In discussion, the phrase, “the distance of 6’ must be maintained between tables on the rooftop popup” was added to the draft Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **II. Ratification of Use of Public Realm—Mark Stebbins**

#### **a. Uses Recommended by Subcommittee on 6/29/2020**

The street committee has been busy. A chart has been made showing restaurants that have been approved and those that are pending.

- Motion: Jim Lee moved to approve the subcommittee request. Mark Stebbins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Some spaces are ready to go. Some restaurants are waiting for Fire and Health approvals, and some barriers have gone up, said DPW Director Peter Rice. We know where they are going next. Making places on Penhallow for Ceres Bakery, Cure, Dwyer’s Pub, Mr. Kim’s, and Massimo has worked fairly easily. Moxy was a challenge, with the user of the local loading ramp angry about the change. But that has been solved. Banners will be going in on Commercial Alley. Market Street has barriers from the Gas Light to Dunbar Square.

The Goat and those at the end of Congress Street have to wait for the timing of the traffic signals to be adjusted to allow the elimination of a lane, he continued. Once those signals are adjusted, we’re ready to drop the barricades and let the restaurants catch up. The Thirsty Moose is pending. Their request for more space has been turned down. There isn’t much flexibility for anybody. There is only so much space available. They all have to follow the Fire 6-foot spacing regulations.

Task Force member Valerie Rochon asked if the approval process of having the Street Use Committee approve restaurants in advance of a general Task Force vote is in keeping with the original tenets of the Task Force. Co-chair James Petersen said that the process of having the subcommittee vote on the decisions it makes during its meetings, and then handing its approvals to the DPW and the City Manager to carry out, works very well. In that way, City Manager Karen Conard said, advanced ratification from the entire Task Force is being assumed. She asked if the entire group is satisfied with that policy. For all intents and purposes, interrupted Peter Rice, the approval process works well and should go forward the way is currently structured.

## **b. Use of Foundry Garage Update—Russ Grazier**

The independent community group that is working on the popup project has raised \$90 thousand in one week, said Russ Grazier. That fully matches and exceeds the City funds that were allocated during its meeting last week. Seacoast Rep is confirmed as the fiscal agent for the popup group. All funds will be kept independent of Seacoast Rep. The principal at Diversions Puzzles & Games is the treasurer for the group. The Black Trumpet is the anchor restaurant. The Wilder, the Franklin Oyster House, the Dolphin Striker, Moxie, Cava, Dwyer, and Jumpin' Jay's are the restaurants that are interested in being part of this project.

Russ said he couldn't underestimate the impact of having a beer garden for the restaurants that are involved. Stoneface and Liars' Bench have formed an LLC to oversee one big beer garden that will feature the craft beer of Loaded Question, Earth Eagle, Great Rhythm, and possibly other breweries, too.

The City has offered the Bridge Street lot and a portion of Bridge Street as an alternative location, Russ said. There are a lot of pros in moving the site from the top of the garage over to the Bridge Street lot. All parties are positive about this and feel it will benefit the community.

This is a great opportunity to fix some of the things that were emerging as problems up on the rooftop, said City Health Officer Kim McNamara. Dining in public has a higher risk than retail does. Bar situations are very high risk. You see rapid outbreaks associated with both restaurants and bars in other places. Performing arts is another high-risk situation. You have people who are applauding and laughing—and they aren't wearing masks because they have been eating. We are, in some cases, tripling the risk. Things can get out of control pretty quickly. The more we can separate, the more we can stagger the activities, the better. The more we can enforce mask-wearing and social-distancing, the better this is going to go, concluded Kim McNamara.

The performance space is going to be very contained and very moderated because there is going to be ticketed entry, said Russ. We'll be able to control who comes in and how long they're there. Specific points of entry and egress will allow us to maintain numbers within the space.

- Motion: Russell Grazier moved to amend last week's motion regarding the Foundry Place Garage Popup Rooftop project, so that the site at this time is the Bridge Street lot and a portion of Bridge Street, instead of Foundry Garage. All other portions of that motion will stay true to the new location. Martha Fuller Clark seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meetings (Zoom)**

Wed 7/1 at 3:00 Street Use Subcommittee [All Mons/Weds at 3:00 p.m.]  
~~Fri 7/3 at 9:00 Street Use Subcommittee [All Fridays at 9:00 a.m.]~~  
Mon 7/6 at 3:00 Street Use Subcommittee  
Wed 7/8 at 2:00 Weekly Task Force [All Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.]  
Wed 7/8 at 3:00 Street Use Subcommittee  
Fri 7/10 9:00am Street Use Subcommittee  
Wed 7/15 at 2:00 Weekly Task Force  
Wed 7/15 at 3:00 Street Use Subcommittee  
Wed 7/22 at 2:00 Weekly Task Force  
Wed 7/29 at 2:00 Weekly Task Force  
Wed 8/5 At 2:00 Weekly Task Force

**Other Business**

Karen Conard will not be present at the Wednesday, July 8 weekly Task Force meeting. She will be moving to Portsmouth. [Yay, voiced several participants.]

**Adjourn**

- Motion: Martha Fuller Clark moved to adjourn. Jim Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The time was 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
PG Horton