

DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
June 3, 2022 7:30 AM

Members Present: Philip Cohen; Chair, Alan Gold; Vice-Chair, Tom Watson, Andrew Ward, Jacob Lehoux, Sarah Lachance, Bob Marchewka, Anne Weidman, City Councilor; Vince Lombardi, Assistant Mayor; JoAnna Kelley; Ben VanCamp

Absent: Katelyn Kwoka, Everett Eaton

City Staff: City Manager; Karen Conard, Asst. City Manager for Economic Development; Sean Clancy

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM

Minutes - Approval of draft meeting minutes of May 6, 2022 – Motion made by *Commissioner Watson* seconded by *Councilor Lombardi*. Motion to approve amended minutes passed unanimously.

Host – *Paul Brean* – Executive Director, Pease Development Authority welcomed the EDC members to the new Pease Airport Terminal. Director Brean provided a brief update of airport operations, commercial and industrial space, and occupancy at the Pease Tradeport. He then entertained questions ranging from proposed air cargo operations to available developable (land) parcels to any potential for housing (on Pease). He shared that the vacancy rate stands at 2.8% noting that this is a (one year) lagging indicator. Director Brean confirmed lost tenants including Franklin Pierce, Granite State College and Southern NH University who all moved their (Pease) activity to on-line education during the pandemic. He closed his comments by outlining that Pease is an attractive location based on the historical advantages of location and parking as well as a refreshed ability to be flexible regarding space use and ultimately utilization.

Working Group Updates:

Business Retention and Expansion Survey – *Sean Clancy* advised that the BR&E Survey team had met and agreed to take another look at refining the digital survey questions as well as the timeline for launch which will move to September '22.

Data Group – *Chair Cohen* advised that a request for historical commercial and residential development statistics and values was submitted to city staff to determine feasibility of pulling this information for analysis and distribution to the broader public. It was stated by the group that “accessible data” is the goal.

New/Other Business:

- Chamber President *Ben Van Camp* updated the EDC on the following:
 - Successful (spring) Restaurant Week
 - Successful “Inaugural” Cocktail Week (May 9th – 15th)
 - New efforts are being developed around supporting our small business community
 - Initial Feedback and data from Arts and Culture Marketing campaign are positive

City Council Update:

- The Fy23 Budget process is all encompassing and progressing

Next Meeting will be schedule for either July 22nd or July 29th

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Assistant Mayor Kelley, seconded by Commissioner Lachance.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Clancy

Assistant City Manager for Economic Development