

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: February 16, 2023 (after 9:00 a.m.) – February 21, 2023 (before 5:00 p.m.)

February 21, 2023 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Thu, 02/16/2023 - 12:39

Full Name

Peter Geremia

Email

p.geremia@icloud.com

Subject

COVID VACCINE PUSH - VIA PORTSMOUTH RESTAURANTS

Address

315 Maplewood Ave

Message

Hello,

It is no longer the job of the City of Portsmouth to PUSH the COVID vaccine on citizens of Portsmouth. People can decide if they are going to get it or not.

This is especially true given the reduced efficacy of this vaccine as well as the clear and evident dangers that are now starting to come to light.

Your HEALTH INSPECTOR cannot get off this kick and this needs to stop. They sent out a message to all FOOD SERVICE restaurants to PUSH the MOBILE VACCINE CLINIC!

PLEASE STOP THIS NOW! How DARE you have local restaurants do your DIRTY WORK??? How about allow our DOCTORS to handle this moving forward.

Remember the HEALTH department of Portsmouth is not run by a DOCTOR!

Thank You,

Peter Geremia

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Sun, 02/19/2023 - 10:46

Full Name

Thomas Nies

Email

tnies@aol.com

Subject

Permitted Uses of Property Tax Records

Address

419 Richards Avenue

Message

Councilors:

What are the limitations, if any, on the use of property tax records by private parties? I am aware that much of this information is public, but does this mean it can be use for any purpose?

I recently received a letter from the Portsmouth VFW post. It is clear from the address and the subject that this letter was part of a bulk mailing to property owners that are receiving the veteran's exemption. While this is - arguably, anyway - public information, does that allow its use for advocacy through bulk mailings?

Many communities have an online database for accessing property tax information, as does Portsmouth. Many of those communities have a clear statement when accessing the data that using the data for bulk mail solicitations is prohibited. Portsmouth's Vision Database does not have a similar prohibition.

Is this an oversight or is there a reason this use is permitted?

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

RESPONSE FROM CITY MANAGER CONARD:

Good afternoon Mr. Nies, Honorable Mayor and City Council Members –

In response to your query below, please note that there are no restrictions; this information is public information. A taxpayer can request to have their information hidden from online access or from being added to a list generated upon request.

The tax warrant is different, as all taxpayers must be added to the warrant and is available for the public to view; the City does not create the warrant for distribution.

The City receives requests from organizations for lists including property owners name, property location and mailing address, and the City charges a fee of \$75.00 to produce such a list.

Of note: the only list which cannot be generated by stature is a list of taxpayers receiving the elderly exemption.

Should you have additional questions, I would be happy to provide answers.

Regards,

Karen Conard, City Manager

Submitted on Sun, 02/19/2023 - 13:42

Full Name

Robert & Diane Vieira

Email

Robertvieira32@comcast.net

Subject

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION TO HDC & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Address

49 Dennett Street

Message

February 19, 2023

Historic District Commission

cc: Board of Adjustment

City of Portsmouth

1 Junkins Avenue

Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear HDC Board Members:

For the past 16 years, we have been stewards of two properties in both the South End and the North End, within the historical districts of Portsmouth. We have become concerned about the inconsistent and inequitable decisions being made by the Board.

At a Board of Adjustment work session in February, there was a discussion regarding the property at 39 Dearborn Street, which is a traditional cape from the 1700's. This is among the oldest wooden structures in Portsmouth. At the work session, the property owners presented plans to raise the roof, changing the structure to a Dutch colonial. Many board members voiced their support of this plan. Some justified this because the home's visibility is limited from any street. Does this mean if it can't be seen it does not have historical value? Does this mean that any proposed changes to the Jackson House would be guided by the same logic?

There have been discussions regarding this property in the past. During a work session on April 29, 2015, the following comments were made by board members:

William Galdhill-Vice Chair

"If we approve this design, I no longer can see the cape", "I'd like to see the integrity of the original cape preserved", "You can see it from the North Mill Pond, so you can see it from a public way"

Joe Almeida-Chair

"We have a very early cape. We can still see it", "We need to be sympathetic to this historical cape", "I'd like to see a historical cape rather than a complete change in style"

Reagan Ruedig

"Let's try and highlight the cape rather than try and turn it into something totally new"

John Wyckoff

"What are we looking at her", "This is a traditional cape, therein lies the problem"

Richard Shea

"We would all like to see the front of the cape", "Restore the old entrance"

Dan Rawling

"I agree with the previous comments"

Please contrast these remarks to comments made at the recent meeting in February 2023.

We are not historians but do appreciate the antiquity that reflects a narrative of our city's history. When we first moved to the North End, we tried to get to know the history of our neighborhood. We would intentionally walk down Dearborn Street to admire the antique cape with the single dormer. It seems that lately the HDC has given leniency to some property owners which has allowed the partial loss of our historical footprint. If the Dearborn house were in the South End, we feel the Board would be coming from a different perspective.

We encourage the HDC board members to ask themselves if their opinions and decisions represent a fair and equitable process that supports the HDC mission.

Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing efforts to preserve our historical community.

Sincerely,
Robert and Diane Vieira
49 Dennett Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Tue, 02/21/2023 - 13:59

Full Name

Amber Buttermore

Email

amberpeacock@hotmail.com

Subject

Sponsored Ice Skating Night

Address

545 FW Hartford Drive

Message

Good Afternoon City Council,

I was inspired to write to you today by the efforts of the COVID task force committee, the efforts of Andrew Bagley and the efforts of our Portsmouth Schools and of our PTA's. I'm also writing this request only representing myself and an idea that came to me as I thought about acts of kindness and inclusion for the children in our city and ways to boost overall mental health for children in the winter months.

Because we do not have a city owned recreational ice skating rink like some other towns, I was hoping the City of Portsmouth would consider sponsoring one free skate night a year for each Public Elementary School. The Labrie Family Ice Skating Rink at Strawberry Banke offers our PTA's to pay \$600 to skate for one night. If a school chooses to do two nights of skating over the winter that is \$1200.

As someone who has helped in fundraising over the years I realize that even \$600 is a lot of money for a PTA but may not be a huge amount for a city like Portsmouth.

Would the city consider in their budget for next year to sponsor a free skate night to each Public Elementary School in Portsmouth?

Then if the PTA's at each school want to do a 2nd night it would only cost them \$600 each year. They could use the other \$600 they save for another enrichment activity or other free community gathering they are planning for?

I appreciate your consideration. Again I'm only representing myself in this ask and feel thankful that as a citizen I feel comfortable bringing my own ideas to you all.

Warmly,
Amber Buttermore

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Tue, 02/21/2023 - 14:56

Full Name

Matthew Glenn

Email

matt.glenn@seacoastbikes.org

Subject

Community Power, Housing, CIP

Address

34 Harrison

Message

Honorable Mayor and Councilors,

I want to briefly write in support of a few of your efforts, and with hope for more.

First of all, thank you for all the work you are doing toward setting up Community Power and more sustainable power options.

Secondly, I support efforts to work with the PHA to create more workforce housing, both at the Sherburne site and throughout the city. I'm glad you are meeting with neighbors, but also hope this project can move forward.

Thirdly, it's great to see support for traffic calming efforts on Woodbury and other parts of the city, and funding in the CIP for these efforts. I think that one way the Woodbury plan can be improved is by extending the short multi-use path that is proposed under 95 and having it connect past the Anchorage Inn to Franklin Drive. There is a narrow sidewalk there, but if it could be widened to a two-way path it would make for a much more comfortable connection for everyone walking from the west side of 95 toward New Franklin School.

I am disappointed that the current CIP officially gives up on two critical projects for bicycle connectivity-- the Middle Street downtown project, and the Maplewood downtown project. While there are several good Bike/Ped projects in the CIP, your major goal really needs to be connectivity, and that should include connecting lanes in the neighborhoods onward and through the downtown. Hopefully Maplewood at least can be reconsidered for a lane diet and bike/walk improvements.

Finally, I hope you consider an update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan so that we can better prioritize connectivity and safety throughout the city. While I support Market Square improvements, I hope that doesn't happen at the expense of projects that will fill the gaps in the walking and biking networks elsewhere.

Thank you

Matt Glenn

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
