

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

July 20, 2020

Present:

Russ Grazier, Subcommittee Chair and Task Force member
James Petersen, Task Force co-chair
Deb Anthony, Task Force member
Valerie Rochon, Task Force member
Peter Rice, City of Portsmouth Director of Public Works
Joseph Almeida, City of Portsmouth Facilities Manager
Patrick Howe, City of Portsmouth Deputy Fire Chief
Nancy Carmer, City of Portsmouth Economic Development Program Manager
Stephanie Seacord, City of Portsmouth Public Information Officer
Evan Mallet, Restaurant owner
Josh Denton, Chair of Pop Up Portsmouth
Joanna Kelly, Treasurer of Pop Up Portsmouth
Andrew Bagly, Secretary of Pop Up Portsmouth
Nancy Pearson, Advisory Committee of Pop Up Portsmouth
Kathleen Cavalaro, Advisory Committee of Pop Up Portsmouth

These notes are general in nature and are intended to document topics discussed and are not minutes.

Notes:

Bridge Street Site

Contracts: City noted that all contracts for generators are in place. (these are just like the whisper generators just a different name brand)

Fencing contract completed. Fencing will go up Friday 7/24/20

Underground water completed

Permitting: North noted that the permitting application is in process and should be done this week. Noting also that City is in a good place for all needed permitting to keep project on schedule.

Sheds: There are still a few questions about where the restaurant sheds will be built but no concerns that they will not be ready in time for opening. The discussion included possibility of outside grills. Evan will work with City to consider the possibility of outside grills on site. Noting that both Robert and Kim should be included in this conversation. Evan will take this up off-line with City Folks. This could potentially reduce setting space to fewer than 106 seats.

Financial issues /EIN and Name of project

Josh informed the group that a significant issue came up with the application for the Business name "Pop Up Portsmouth". He was informed that the name cannot be used as a city councilor had purchased the name last week and secured it through the Secretary of State.

Questions then become: Cannot open a Bank Account. Need to apply for a new name to incorporate under. This could negatively impact Pop Up Portsmouth's ability to secure Insurance in a timely manner. There will be some discussions in the next days about escrow of funds for the project.

Critical issue: Without the business name approved by the Secretary of State NH the Rep cannot open bank account. Without bank account they cannot purchase insurance for the building of the lot. Question arose if the City could carry insurance until the Rep and new Pop Up Portsmouth ID completed and allow rep to secure bank account and insurance.

Peter Rice suggested he would discuss the issues of insurance with the City Atty. Possibly the City could do a "set up" or "pre operation" insurance to keep the project moving forward.

Construction of Stage: Kathleen noted the same contractor building sheds will build stage. It will be 20' X 30'. Very simple design. Currently working on tenting options for the space. The committee member Joanna Kelly with Seacoast Rep will work with City staff and walk the property on 7/21/20 with Sperry Tent to resolve questions. (it was noted that there are many Dig Safe issues to be aware of when staking tent)

Portsmouth Businesses as vendors: There was a discussion raised by Valerie Rochon regarding the desire to have more Portsmouth "brick and mortar" businesses participating at Bridge Street. She noted that several of the businesses were not Portsmouth owned and run businesses. (of the 15 businesses listed to be part of the project only 3 were from Portsmouth) Kathleen discussed the need to have commitments and that diversity of businesses that will draw people in was important. She noted that at least one of the businesses was not in Portsmouth but owned by Portsmouth resident. It was reinforced that this project needs to be dedicated to Portsmouth based businesses. Kathleen and Valerie will work on list of Portsmouth businesses who maybe interested.

Start Date for the Pop-Up Venue: Josh assured the committee that they feel confident that start date for the event space. JULY 30th.