

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

September 23, 2020

Present:

Russ Grazier, subcommittee chair and task force member

Deb Anthony, task Force member

Ben Van Camp, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

Peter Rice, City of Portsmouth Director of Public Works

Joseph Almeida, City of Portsmouth Facilities Manager

Stephanie Seacord, City of Portsmouth Public Information Officer

Andrew Bagley, Secretary of Pop Up Portsmouth

North Sturtevant, JSA, Pop Up Portsmouth Board member

Tristin Law, Pop Up NH

Robert Marsillia, City of Portsmouth

Patrick Howe, City of Portsmouth

Laura Brown, Pop Up NH Board Member

Toni McLellan, City of Portsmouth Health Department

Kim McNamara, Health Officer, City of Portsmouth Health Department

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

Updates of current:

Nov 1, 2020 last day! Russ recapped the success of this project and added that the Task Force has approved to have the Bridge Street Lot to continue will run through Nov. 1, 2020.

Extension of outdoor liquor sales Russ noted that the liquor sales has been approved til Nov 30. So, no issue for Bridge Street.

Weather: Tristan noted the colder weather is becoming a factor noting as soon as the sun goes down it gets "pretty chilly". He **may** adjust his schedule by starting performances earlier to close by sunset.

Retail at Bridge Street: Kim questioned what the plans were for retail now and in the future. Tristan noted that there simply was not enough foot traffic to make it work. It appears that most of the retailers are back to their brick and mortar.

Russ suggested that perhaps next year, if this lot is still needed, with an earlier start for retailers could increase awareness of their presence. Noting that he was hopeful that the lessons of this year with retail would benefit next year. Kim requested that next year Bridge Street continues to keep the low numbers of people on site (70 on each side). Russ noted perhaps the site could be used for different times, e.g. retail during the day and theater/food in evenings. Basically, looking to get creative and use lessons learned to make the best of the space.

Lot Clean up: Laura asked about the clean up of the lot when closed on November 1. Questioning who is responsible for what? For example, do they wrap up all the fencing...where will it go?

Shed Storage: Question about sheds. Where will they be stored? Russ questioned if the City might have space. Peter Rice noted that storage might be possible. However, concerns are that wherever they are stored they cannot be unlawfully used. There was a discussion about possible space at the Tradeport. North also noted that there are folks working on the issue of shed storage. Noting that closer is better as transportation is expensive.

Performances coming up: Tristan is working on booking shows beyond Oct 18th. He believes he will have confirmation of shows by end of week.

Concerns:

Main water pipe: Robert noted that the water main might freeze if the weather drops too far. Suggested that maybe a thermal blanket.

Sheds as noted above where to store safely.