

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

September 9, 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

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

**Recap of project:**

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 Oct 31, 2020. We are awaiting City Council approval. Peter noted that the budget contemplates the project to run thru October.

Additionally, the Task Force approved performance area to be open Thursdays.

Josh thanked the Task force for their approval for approving Thursdays and noted that the Restaurants need to added advantage of performance to increase activity in the venue. Thursdays will be open 5-9pm.

Josh also shared the financial impact to local arts organizations: PMAC, 3S Art Space and Seacoast Rep. with revenue to those organizations of \$7,000 to date.

**Concerns/Questions:**

Generator on Top part of Bridge Street has been having issues. There will be an electrician on site 9/10 to assess.

Porta Potties not emptied (maybe due to holiday weekend) They will be emptied by Friday.

**Opening of 3<sup>rd</sup> Shed** (Purple Shed) It was noted that the third shed was always on the site for an additional restaurant site. It will need inspections once a new tenant is determined and decisions are made about required appliances needed. Josh noted the electric is completed However would like

confirmation from the City that they will be okay with 3<sup>rd</sup> shed opening before incurring expenses to add additional appliances. (Note that electrician will look at the generator and power issues with the 3<sup>rd</sup> shed possibly going online.)

Toni (Portsmouth Health Dept) joined call and fielded regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> shed.

Russ noted that Kim (Health Department) has been very positive about the Pop Up and the running of the food area. He also reminded the committee that no additional seating would be added for this 3<sup>rd</sup> food shed, rather it would expand food options for visitors. The goal being to fill the seats already on site. The third shed would not go online before the weekend of 9/17 or possibly 9/24. Russ noted this third shed operational could be very positive to maximize revenue generation for another Portsmouth (brick and mortar) restaurant.

Toni asked questions to clarify: the shed is already built and on premises, said shed is not the current storage area of the grills, this would not increase seating capacity, that the shed would have adequate cleaning and water stations as well as be permitted by City prior to start up.

Josh noted that shed is only storing things such as pop up tents that can be stored elsewhere. Grills are stored in water shed. No seating capacity increases will occur with opening of the third shed. The hope is to increase overall attendance under current limitations.

Russ advocated for maximum use of the space to ensure maximum revenue generation. Noting the new restaurant would ensure new food options and create a stronger draw to the venue overall.

Patrick H noted that the original plan was for three food sheds. The opening with only 2 was to be cautious and work out any issues.

### **Upcoming Events at Venue 9/11-9/13**

Friday	Jim Dozet Band (jazz/folk)
Saturday	A Cabaret Hosted by Kevin Mahaney
Sunday	The Amanda Dane Band

### **Holiday Activities at Bridge Street**

There have been discussions about a holiday presence in the Bridge Street Venue ...Russ noted this is a very big ask and there are several issues to be addressed. Noting that businesses are concerned that the loss of parking during the holidays could cause issues for sales. Also, there are concerns from the city regarding snow removal etc.

Laura asked for specific concerns. North noted cold impacting unheated buildings etc., ice and snow removal. Peter also noted that with the variety of cold weather issues facing the city and budget limitations this would be a very difficult proposition.

Russ also reminded the team that the mandate for the Bridge Street Task force ends at the end of December. There have not been any decisions for 2021 at this point.