

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

October 7, 2020

Present:

Russ Grazier, subcommittee chair and task force member

Deb Anthony, task Force member

Ben Van Camp, Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth

Stephanie Seacord, City of Portsmouth Public Information Officer

Peter Rice, City of Portsmouth

Andrew Bagley, Secretary of Pop Up Portsmouth

Tristin Law, Pop Up NH

Kim McNamara, City of Portsmouth

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

Updates:

Impact

Russ asked for the team to: Create a summary of this project. Russ noted this is the time to begin to build a report about "lessons learned, the project and future possibilities"

He asked that the team prepare a summary by Nov 1, 2020 that would include successes, challenges, how it worked out in the end and sharing of the positives. Positives including the economic impact of the Bridge Street Project for not only participants but for the City.

Russ discussed what the data points: parking impact on the city revenue for example.

Stephanie noted that the Impact of this project would be important to residents as well as plastic collect any measures that speak to impact for the community, businesses, the arts, and the City.

Kim noted that as a municipality Portsmouth has a unique position with the city businesses with the capacity and authority to do all the inspections and licensing required by law needed to operate in Portsmouth and NH.

Kim asked about any feedback forms from visitors to the Bridge Street Lot.

Kim also suggested that she Art Shows might be a good addition to next year.

Kim also asked that next year (if happens) there is consideration of using the venue for all 7 days.

Tristan offered that Pop-Up NH could do a post attendance survey using information from the reservation software that the Pop-Up NH group used. It was noted that anecdotal but he heard from many visitors with common themes being: It was the first trip to Portsmouth b/c of safety, people came because of novelty of venue, shows were a draw and noted that the youth group recitals were popular.

Peter offered to look at the parking lot impact. This should be done within the revised expectations associated with Covid. He noted that to his knowledge the revenues have been as expected.

Dismantling the Lot:

Sheds have a home! Andrew updated the committee that the sheds will be housed on a parking lot owned by the Kane Group. This means the sheds will be wrapped in plastic to preserve them over the winter. Current date for removal is not set but Pop Up NH will update city on date of removal.

City will be at site 19th to support clean up efforts. Peter said he will have the city staff on site for the 19th to help with planning and implementing the dismantling of the Lot.