Minutes for the April 21st, 2021 meeting of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021

MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and read the following declaration: Per NH RSA 91-A: 2, III (b) the Chair has declared the COVID-19 outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

ROLL CALL: Members answering present were: Co-chair James Peterson, Co-Chair Mark Stebbins, Alan Gold, Ann Birner, Anne Weidman, Deborah Anthony, Acting Secretary Jim Lee, John Akar, John Golumb, Karen Bouffard, Kathie Lynch, Valerie Rochon, Nancy Carmer for Karen Conard, Kim McNamara, Petra Huda.

ABSENT: Members not answering were: Jeff Goss, Martha Fuller Clark, Ben VanCamp

HEALTH UPDATE: Kathie Lynch, Portsmouth cases trending down, like to see state levels down.41% of the state have received at least one dose of vaccine. We were reminded Portsmouth still has mask mandate in place. Health FAQs updated. Dartmouth has started a clinic for long term, recovering (long haul) COVID victims.

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH: Per Nancy Carmer for Karen Conard, 48 permits applied for, 42 issued, 1 denied.

RESTAURANT & RETAIL: Valerie Rochon. Got instruction from police about dealing with reluctant mask wearers. Restaurants report high energy. Brides and weddings are returning, good news for various wedding venues. Staffing shortages continue, exacerbated by shortage of visa workers. From Senator Hassen's offices, 22,000 more H2B visas being processed.

BARRIERS & STREET CLOSURES: Mark Stebbins & Anne Weidman. Update on planter construction, slides shown of planter construction assembly line. Some parklets in place already. Valerie Rochon talked about Pleasant Street closure from Porter St. to Market Square. Summer in the Street, 5 weekends beginning in June.

Alan Gold talked about a city council request from Jim Splaine, no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Meeting adjourned by unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lee, Acting Secretary

DRAFT