

**PEASE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PORT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday July 15, 2021

Presiding: Neil Levesque, Committee Chair

Present: Steve Fournier, Committee Member
Erik Anderson, Committee Member

Attending: Geno J. Marconi, Division of Ports and Harbors Director;
Paul Brean, PDA Executive Director;
Anthony Blenkinsop, PDA General Counsel;
Roger Groux, Port Advisory Council Chairman

I. Call to Order

Director Levesque, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. in the conference room of the Division of Ports and Harbors, 555 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH.

II. Acceptance of Committee Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2019

Director Fournier moved and Director Anderson seconded that the Pease Development Authority Port Committee accept the Minutes of the **October 3, 2019** Port Committee meeting. Discussion: None. Disposition: Resolved by unanimous vote; motion carried. It is noted that although the minutes were approved, Director Anderson and Director Fournier were not members of the Committee at the time and did not attend the last meeting. There is one correction to the minutes regarding the date in Paragraph II, which needs to be changed from November 1, 2018 to April 4, 2019. All members agreed.

III. Directors' Comments

Port Director Marconi (Geno) distributed a handout showing a graphic of the Market St. Port facility and explained the physical attributes of the Port. He explained this is a "transportation" facility comprised of 12 acres and is the largest of the 4 Port facilities. On the South side of the property (not visible on the graphic) the Isles of Shoals, Star Island, and Shoals Marine Lab comprise an area of about 1 ½ acres and dock space, which is also utilized by NH DES and NH Fish & Game. 4 1/2 acres of the property are used by 2 tenants for storage of road salt. The other open areas are used on as needed basis. The Port expects to gain about 2 more acres once the BUILD and Barge Dock construction projects are completed. Discussion regarding the green shaded area on the graphic, Geno indicated that is the footprint of the old Sarah Long Bridge and also shows railroad. NH DOT and Maine DOT own parts of the railroad from the switch and over the water. At 8:15 Geno took the Port Committee members on a tour of the facility, they returned at 9 AM. Discussion regarding revenue and if the fees charged are enough to support the facility included a past Port Fee Analysis and an explanation that every Port operates differently based on contributing factors such as varying tide schedules. The pending construction projects,

once completed, will bring the Port back to a state of good repair and allow us to look at the fees and make adjustments.

Discussion regarding how the Port supports projects on the river. The Port is currently renting space to Cianbro, the company that is working on the new dry dock at the Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard (PNSY). The Port receives fees, in addition to lay down rental fees, for use of the pier in the form of dockage and wharfage. Geno explained that the Port has always played an important role in supporting several companies that have utilized the facilities at the Port for very large projects involving such things as assembling products to be brought up the river by barge, bringing in the windmill components for the Antrim project, power plant parts, and other heavy lift items.

The Director gave an update on the Portsmouth Fish Pier, the inside portion is scheduled to be completed by mid-August. The inside area includes the fuel pumps, the hoists, and the floats. Work will then proceed to the outside area in which the pier will be cut out in order to install the rest of the sheet pile. It was noted that fuel revenue will increase once the pumps are up and running by allowing both recreational and commercial boaters to fuel at their convenience.

Roger Groux reiterated how important the Ports role is in the success of the project at the PNSY. PNSY is one of 4 yards in the country identified by the Navy as a high priority project and as such the Ports support is crucial for construction projects to succeed. The Navy has had several boats and subs waiting for as much as 2 years waiting to get in. There are 8500 employees at the PNSY. Once the project is complete three subs will be able to dry dock instead of just one.

Discussion regarding the increase of recreational boaters on the water, waiting lists for moorings and slips, how boat registration fees are distributed (tidal vs. inland), and the bridge replacement of the Rt. 1 Rye/New Castle bascule bridge. Further discussion included mooring permits turnover times and titling boats in the State of NH.

IV. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

V. Press Questions

There were no members of the press present.

VI. Adjournment

Director Fournier made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 AM