

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday June 7, 2016**

**4:30 PM City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room**

**Members Present**

Tom Link, Chair  
Kathy Frink, Treasurer  
Steve Russo  
Antje Hornbeck  
Dawn Thomas-Smith  
John Mitchell  
Karen Parsells  
Pam Slack  
William Shoefmann (Alternate)

**Staff Present**

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant  
Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director

**Members Not Present**

Irene Davis, Vice Chair  
Jay Kahn

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Link called the meeting to order at 4:38 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Will Schoefman was present as an alternate.

**4. Board Business:**

c) **Delegation Exchange** - Chair Link introduced visitors – Randall Burns from the Construction Trades and Kathleen Polifrone from Food Sciences, both teachers from the Cheshire Career Center. Two students, Kayla Shippee and Brad Blake introduced themselves. The small group was present to discuss their recent trip to Einbeck, Germany, and to answer questions from the Committee.

Ms. Shippee opened by thanking the Committee for the donations that made this trip possible. Einbeck was beautiful, she reported; everything was spectacular. The group met police officers; the mayor of Einbeck, bankers; townspeople. They learned so much more about Germany than

they ever thought they would. She reported that the trip was just under two weeks. She is in the automotive track at the Cheshire Career Center. A member asked if she had a chance to tour Automotive at the school they visited. Ms. Shippee said that the school did not have Automotive; however, the student with whom she toured the school studies Technology. This German student was working on building a printer from the ground up, which is a sophisticated endeavor.

Mr. Burns noted that this particular school educates students from the ages of 15 to 26. Some of the students have work experience, then had the opportunity to return to school to follow a different career path. The German system is very different from the US system. He also thanked the Committee for their generosity, and said trip was wonderful. He noted that some relationships had been established in the fall when students from Einbeck visited Keene and the Cheshire Career Center. The two students who were on this Einbeck trip are seniors, so will not be at the school when guests from Einbeck next arrive. He further stated that the nearly two weeks in Germany featured a very full agenda.

Brad Blake from the high school thanked the Committee for sponsoring this trip. He also thanked them for offering such a wonderful trip to the Germans when they visited in Keene.

Chair Link asked if the group learned anything new from the Germans, as their school system is so different from those in the states. Ms. Polifrone reported that the Cheshire Career Center is based at KHS. At the BBS in Germany, students have chosen to attend this completely separate school. Student focus is primarily on their studies. The BBS is comprised of 5 buildings. This led to a relaxed, less crowded environment. Personal responsibility is of paramount importance in the German system. Teachers do not do as much administrative work as teachers do in America. A number of the students were 18 – 21, although there were some younger students, as well. The German students had many questions about American politics, and our gun culture, which were all asked with genuine curiosity and respect.

Ms. Polifrone thanked the Committee for this incredible opportunity to travel to Germany. The friendships that were forged several years ago in the fall deepened in the spring when the Keene group visited Einbeck. Ms. Polifrone remarked upon their trip to Berlin, and meeting a Parliament member. The teachers enjoyed watching the students form friendships, and the memory-building that took place during both trips. The personal connections extended to the two cities forged a bond that can be built upon for years. The group that traveled feels this is so important. That the Cheshire Career Center took this trip is a feather in the cap of the program; a part of who they are as an educational institution.

Chair Link was appreciative of the gratitude shown by the travelers. He asked that the Cheshire Career Center share their experiences with Principal Logan. Reflecting, he commented on the soccer exchange program that was launched years ago. Students who participated in the program when they were 15 are now in their 30's. Experiences such as these forge strong community bonds.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 3, 2016**

Ms. Thomas-Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of May 3, 2016 as submitted. Ms. Frink seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Board Business**

- a) Sharing Community News – media connections – Antje & Dawn

Ms. Thomas-Smith stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

- b) Fund raising events – Update and discussion

Update on Fireworks fundraising event – Mr. Blomquist and Ms. Slack met with Adam from Fireworks restaurant to discuss the sponsorship of a fundraising event. The restaurant coordinates a menu with the group, and opens the dinner to the community. The proceeds from the evening are donated to the non-profit - \$500 - \$2,000, depending upon attendance at the event. Fireworks is most interested in participating, and suggested an Oktoberfest menu. The duties of the nonprofit are advertising, and having a representative present at the event. Ms. Thomas-Smith asked if a coupon would be necessary. That detail is unknown at this point. Fireworks is enthused about the idea of this event taking place when the Einbeck delegation is here. There might be a sponsorship with Clark Distributors. This would also be an opportunity to introduce the community to the Einbeckers. Advertising will draw the community in.

Ms. Hornbeck noted that this seemed to be a low-effort event for the Committee. She also noted that a multi-media presence would be beneficial. Ms. Slack noted that a table-tent menu would be on-site, advertising the Partner City Community, and Clark Distributors. She mentioned the possibility of Clark donating beer for the evening. This would be a good opportunity for everyone in the community.

Mr. Link noted that he has attended events at Fireworks for benefit evenings, and they were terrific. The establishment is quite nice; the event was well received, and the community goodwill is invaluable. Tuesday night might be the preferred evening for this event, as the delegation will arrive on Saturday, October 1st.

Ms. Thomas-Smith likes the low-key nature of this fundraiser; not a tremendous amount of work for the Committee. Ms. Slack hopes for a partnership between Clark Distributors and a German beer distributor. Ms. Frink asked if the Committee has to front funds; no, answered Mr. Blomquist. Fireworks recoups their expenses for the evening; the balance is given to the Committee as a fundraiser. He noted that perhaps souvenir shot glasses and/or other specialties will be available for the evening. No reservations; no tickets. Mr. Blomquist thought that gamble of opening to the public would be worthwhile; perhaps a waiting line at the restaurant of those who want to join in this festive evening. Monadnock Radio is more than willing to advertise this type of event. This is not to be a restrictive evening; rather, an expansive one that will attract many community members.

An Excel spreadsheet to be used as a mailing list was distributed to the Committee. It will require some updating, and various members will work on the updates.

d) KSC Chamber Singer's concert – KSC Chamber Singers concert - Ms. Davis is in Europe, so there are no updates at this time. This issue will be taken up at the next meeting.

f) Facebook page/photos - There were no updates on Facebook. Mr. Mitchell, however, mentioned that there are Google files that contain good photos of the Einbeck trip. There are videos available here of the trip, as well. Some of these will be uploaded to the Facebook page, according to Ms. Thomas-Smith.

**5. Communications:**

**6. Reports:**

a) Treasurer Report – Ms. Frink noted a \$455.50 deposit from the Home Show, bringing the total to of the fund to \$15,486.21. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read, which carried unanimously.

**7. New Business:**

No new business at this time.

**8. Next Meeting:** Next meeting date: July 12, 2016. Chair Link asked if he could get the minutes earlier than 5 days prior to the next meeting. Ms. Mattson said she would make this request.

**9. More Time:**

- a) Band exchange – The Mendelssohn School/Keene
- b) Signs for public awareness of Einbeck/Keene partnership
- c) KSC Chamber Singers' visit to Einbeck

**10. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Smith-Thomas; seconded by Ms. Parsells.  
Meeting closed at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan Walthour, Minute Taker