

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

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

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

**5:00 PM**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

John Mitchell, Chair  
Will Schoefmann, Vice Chair (left at 5:13 PM)  
Mari Brunner  
Kürt Blomquist  
Dr. Delene White  
Lena Kridlo  
Councilor Michael Giacomo  
Mayor George Hansel

**Staff Present:**

Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison

**Members Not Present:**

Dawn Thomas-Smith

Chair Mitchell read a prepared statement explaining how the Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04 issued by the Governor of New Hampshire, waives certain provisions of RSA 91-A (which regulates the operation of public body meetings) during the declared COVID-19 State of Emergency.

**1) Call to Order**

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. He and Mr. Schoefmann welcomed new member Lena Kridlo.

**2) Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required)**

Roll call was conducted.

**3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Dec. 8, 2020**

Chair Mitchell asked if everyone has reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had corrections or changes.

Mr. Blomquist made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2020. Mr. Schoefmann seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7-0. Councilor Giacomo's vote was not recorded due to his temporary lack of audio.

**4) Board Business**

**a. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer**

Mayor Hansel nominated Mr. Mitchell for Chair and Mr. Schoefmann for Vice Chair. Ms. Brunner seconded the motion. Chair Mitchell nominated Dr. White for Treasurer. Mr. Schoefmann seconded the motion. Both motions passed unanimously.

**b. Introductions and new member – Lena Kridlo**

The committee welcomed Lena Kridlo. Ms. Kridlo briefly introduced herself and thanked the committee.

**c. Planning for Future Exchanges with Einbeck**

***1. Future Exchange Ideas – Dance, Rugby, YMCA***

Mr. Schoefmann stated that he will be talking with the rugby group's board of directors soon, about the possibility of an exchange. He continued that he hopes to have news about this to share with the PCC in February.

Mr. Schoefmann left at 5:13 PM.

***2. Student Pen-pal Ideas***

Chair Mitchell stated that renewing the pen-pal program they had a few years ago was a terrific idea. He continued that fifth grade teacher J.J. Prior, at Fuller School, is very interested in doing this and thinks his students would be very interested. Jürgen Herbst is ready to start matching up students in Einbeck. He spoke with Ms. Thomas-Smith, who is working on getting folks at the middle school involved with the pen-pal program as well.

Ms. Kridlo asked when the exchange is going to happen. Chair Mitchell replied that there were two exchanges scheduled for 2020 but all exchanges had to be put on hold due to COVID-19. Now they have lots of time to plan.

**d. Discuss Promotional Activities /Media Opportunities to Help Promote PCC Events and Exchanges**

Chair Mitchell asked if anyone could speak to this in Ms. Thomas-Smith's absence. Hearing no response, he moved to the next agenda item.

**5) Communications**

Chair Mitchell reported that he received an email from Jürgen Herbst and an email from Albert Thormann, relaying their concerns about the struggles the US is having at the Capitol. He continued that the emails expressed good wishes.

**6) Reports**

**a. Treasurer's Report – Dr. Delene White**

Dr. White reported that there has been no change.

Mr. Blomquist made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report dated January 12, 2021. Ms. Brunner seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

**7) New Business**

Ms. Brunner asked for the status of the survey, which the committee was going to put on social media and send out via email. Ms. Mattson replied that it has gone to IT Director Rebecca Landry, who is putting it together. She continued that the holdup was the “donate” button. That has now been resolved. She anticipated hearing from Ms. Landry this week, but maybe it will be next week – they are really close.

Chair Mitchell stated that another item for new business is that in speaking with Wally Secord and a few other people to put some information together for Ms. Thomas-Smith, a topic that came up that the committee might want to think about is: what potential liability issues are going to be involved with the sports groups and student groups going forward? If the committee is looking for a person to bring young people to Einbeck for exchanges, this is something they should think about and talk about. Mr. Blomquist agreed that this needs to be looked at and spoke about how the organizations/schools typically have liability protections. He continued that also, as Einbeck students come to Keene, they should see if there is anything they need to be aware of.

Ms. Brunner asked if there is an update on the distribution the coloring book packets from Einbeck. Ms. Mattson replied that she emailed Andy Bohannon (at the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department) and Marti Fiske (at the Keene Public Library) and has not heard back yet. Chair Mitchell asked if they should give some to J.J. Prior for his students. Ms. Mattson replied yes, that would be a great segue for the pen pal program. Chair Mitchell stated that he will come get some from her tomorrow – 20 would be a good number.

There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Britta Reida, Minute Taker  
Edits submitted by, Helen Mattson