

MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVES:

Report Sections *proposed*

1. Executive Summary **Jeff & Vince**
2. General Information, including the history of prior efforts **Tom W & Tom H**
3. Current Condition **Elizabeth & Emma**
 - a. Example: Lack of appropriate storage, quality of conditions, accommodation of diverse storage needs, etc. (see Tom's Collections Assessment)
4. Description of Need/Issue
 - a. Assessment **Elizabeth & Emma**
 - i. Member Organizations (include collections, scope and special needs):
 1. City of Portsmouth
 2. The Portsmouth Athenaeum
 3. Strawberry Banke Museum
 4. The Portsmouth Historical Society, and
 5. Such other entities as appropriate
 6. Private Collections
 - b. Rationale **Kristen & Alan**

The history of Portsmouth is:

 1. Nationally recognized as important to the history of the Country and State
 2. Integral to the cultural identity of the city
 3. A major tourism draw
 4. Important to the economic viability of the city
 5. Studied and documented by Scholars from all over the world

6. A repository of information about the people and cultures who have lived in Portsmouth (Piscataqua region)
7. Important for how we shape Portsmouth in the future

5. The Issue **Susan & Tom H**

- a. The city and many organizations (and individuals) currently have and store relevant materials to the history of Portsmouth.
- b. The city and these organizations do not have adequate facilities to properly store and preserve these materials.

6. Recommendations/Goals **Christine**

- a. How the City and Portsmouth private historical organizations can join together to create a facility that meets the needs of archiving important records, with a recommended assessment.
- b. Ongoing, long-range committee to assist with this initiative moving forward.
- c. How the pertinent materials are identified and judged as vital; what should not or cannot be included? What qualifies as Portsmouth history? Flow of ongoing acquired objects.
- d. What archiving methods should be used for each type of material to assure each type is protected effectively?
- e. What space will be required for such an effort? How will the space be identified, procured and maintained?
- f. Scale of acceptable objects for archiving.
- g. How will the ongoing efforts be funded? What are the opportunities for establishing trust funds, local and state monies and private contributions?
- h. How will the archives ongoing leadership and management be structured and implemented?
- i. Structure/architectural needs
- j. Legal

7. Conclusion **unclaimed as of 4/28/23 – assigned later toward the end**

Vince,

I wrote to Rodney Obien and he is enthusiastic to come to our meeting on June 9th. I would like to see if we could get Tom, Emma and Elizabeth to perhaps show him their operations. After all, he is a professional archivist and I think he would enjoy it, and I would like to give him a 'reward' for coming to our meeting and offering whatever he can. Thoughts?

Alan

Sent from my iPhone please excuse errors

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rodney Obien <robien@keene.edu>
Date: April 28, 2023 at 4:08:57 PM EDT
To: Alan Cohen <alan.cohen0619@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Portsmouth Archive Center

Dear Alan,

It would be my pleasure to attend a meeting. I have a prior obligation on May 19. June 9th looks more promising. I'll put June 9th, 9:00-10:30am on the calendar. Let me the location.

I look forward to meeting and you the members of committee.

Kind Regards,

Rodney

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From: Alan Cohen <alan.cohen0619@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:13:56 PM
To: Rodney Obien <robien@keene.edu>
Subject: Re: Portsmouth Archive Center

Hi Rodney,

Hope all is well in Keene. I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a meeting of our committee on documentation and archives.

Most certainly you could add a lot to our continuing efforts toward generating a report to the city council on recommendations for future collecting, storage and research for the exponentially increasing documents and objects that we have.

I believe I may have mentioned that our committee is headed by a city councilor and includes heads of the Portsmouth Historical Society, the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Strawberry Banke Museum (correct spelling), the Executive Director of the Portsmouth Library, the Chairperson of the Cemetery Commission and several impassioned citizens. I'm sure you would be interested in what we have accomplished thus far and our thinking on moving forward. We meet every other Friday from 9:00 - 10:30. Would either May 19 or June 9 work for you?

Thanks again for your contributions thus far,
and I hope you will be able to join us in person.

Regards,
Alan