

**CITY OF KEENE
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall



1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required) introduce new member Doris Mc Collester**
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** June 14, 2022
4. **Board Business:**
 - a) Discuss Stonewall Farm Oktoberfest – opportunity to participate – Rebecca Todd, Executive Director.
 - b) Planning for Keene Delegation to Einbeck – October 7 – 15, 2022.
 - 1.) Discuss a list of people that the Committee would like to connect with in Einbeck and topics.
 - c) Discuss “Taste of Keene” for next year. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free use of grill and donation for brats and kraut.
 - a.) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook updates – if any.
 - b.) Brewery connections – discuss the last 2 membership slot(s). Branch & Blade or Elm City – Will
5. **Communications:**
6. **Reports:**
 - a) Treasurer Report
7. **New Business:**

Discussion about gift ideas for Einbeck’s mayor from the PPC to be presented by acting mayor.
8. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting is September 13, 2022.
9. **More Time:**
 - a) Student pen-pal ideas – High School 16 -18 year olds.
 - b) Discuss Keene Sentinel’s James Rinker, digital community engagement journalist - Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges
 - c) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities
 - d) Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, dance, rugby
 - e) KSC Music Department – interest in exchange for 2023 (KSC to Einbeck)
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
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5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall

Members Present:

John Mitchell, Chair
William Schoefmann, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael Giacomo
Mari Brunner
Gregg Kleiner
Kürt Blomquist, Ex-Officio

Staff Present:

Members Not Present:

Lena Kridlo
Dawn Thomas-Smith
Mayor George Hansel

8
9
10 **1) Call to Order**

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12 Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

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

15
16 Roll call was conducted. Chair Mitchell welcomed guest Elizabeth Cardine from the MC2
17 Charter School.

18
19 **3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – April 13, 2022 (no official meeting held May 17)**

20
21 Mr. Schoefmann made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2022. Mr.
22 Blomquist seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

23
24 **4) Board Business**

25 **A. Planning for Keene Delegation to Einbeck – October 7-15, 2022**

26
27 Chair Mitchell stated that he has information that has all been transferred to the Einbeck
28 committee, in the last handout from Ms. Mattson. He continued that the Einbeck committee is
29 already looking at hosts. He asked if anyone has been contacted yet by a potential host. Mr.

30 Schoefmann replied that he does not think so. Chair Mitchell replied that that might be
31 happening soon. He continued that if people who are traveling to Einbeck have travel
32 arrangements already made, it would be helpful if they would share the information with him,
33 and he will share it with the committee. Even though the Keene delegation expressed that they
34 will be getting from the airport to Einbeck on their own, the Einbeck committee still would like
35 to be helpful and may offer a couple shuttles. The sooner the Einbeck folks know about the
36 Keene folks' travel arrangements, the better, so they can plan. Thus, he will share any travel
37 information he has with the Einbeck folks.

38
39 Discussion ensued about people's travel arrangements, flight times, train tickets, and so on and
40 so forth. Ms. Brunner asked if the PCC could get a list of everyone who is going on the trip.
41 Chair Mitchell replied that Ms. Mattson sent him the list; he will forward it to everyone else. He
42 read the list of names aloud, and discussion ensued. PCC members noted that Mayor Hansel can
43 no longer go, and thus the Councilors who will traveling should talk with him about who will be
44 appointed in his place.

45
46 **B. MC2 – School's Interest in Exchange Involvement – Elizabeth and Derek will be**
47 **traveling with the group – update**

48
49 Elizabeth Cardine stated that she does not yet have any information to share, as she has not yet
50 heard from the contact (in Einbeck), so she and Derek have not yet made plans or moved on
51 anything. Chair Mitchell replied that he will send that person's contact information to Ms.
52 Cardine.

53
54 **C. KSC Music Department – Interest in Exchange for 2023 (KSC to Einbeck)**

55
56 Chair Mitchell stated that Sandra (Howard) has been keeping him up to date on the emails. He
57 continued that she did a nice job bringing a group (from Keene to Einbeck) and hosting a group
58 (from Einbeck in Keene) in the past, so he is sure she is self-sufficient; she would just like some
59 help. Ms. Brunner asked if it is correct that she is not going in October but has gone in the past.
60 Chair Mitchell replied that she has been on an official exchange, and she is looking to host a
61 group in 2023, so he assumes she will be traveling in the near future. Discussion continued.

62
63 **D. Discuss "Taste of Keene" for next year. Brats and Kraut sales.**

64
65 Chair Mitchell asked if there is news about next year. Mr. Kleiner replied, speaking on behalf of
66 Keene Young Professionals Network (KYPN), that he does not see how it would be a problem
67 [if the PCC wanted to sell brats and kraut]; there are just going to be Health Department and Fire
68 Department inspections. They will have to coordinate that. KYPN are open to the idea of the
69 PCC switching to selling food. It is do-able, and just a matter of timing and the inspections.
70 Discussion ensued. PCC members noted that they used to sell food at Pumpkin Fest, and did the
71 inspections, and it worked well. Discussion ensued about insurance issues.

73 **E. PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates – if any**
74

75 Chair Mitchell stated that they will have to put this topic on hold until Ms. Thomas-Smith is
76 present. Mr. Schoefmann stated that Ms. Thomas-Smith had asked if they need something like
77 more posts to share. Mr. Blomquist replied that they probably should start posting about the
78 upcoming exchange. Discussion ensued about the kind of content, related to the upcoming
79 exchange that can be posted. Chair Mitchell stated that they can share that they are bringing
80 school administrators, business and industry people, representatives of Keene government, are
81 excited about re-starting the exchanges, and so on and so forth. He continued that they could
82 post a bit about the donations from the Rotary Club in Keene and how people traveling to
83 Einbeck are excited to see the results in Einbeck of Keene's support, and that a representative
84 from the Rotary Club will be going and can report back on the progress. Discussion continued
85 about other possible social media content, such as information about COVID-19 recovery in
86 Einbeck and Germany, encouragement for anyone who is interested in participating in the
87 exchanges or joining the PCC to reach out, and photos taken during the exchange.
88

89 Ms. Brunner asked how many vacancies the PCC has right now. Mr. Schoefmann replied that
90 they have room for two regular members and three alternates. Discussion continued.
91

92 **5) Communications**
93

94 Chair Mitchell stated that he hears from Jürgen Herbst once or twice a week, and the Einbeck
95 committee's plans are going well. He continued that Mr. Herbst's biggest concern is the need to
96 have the Keene delegation's travel information. He would not be surprised if (people traveling
97 from Keene) start to hear from potential Einbeck hosts very soon.
98

99 **6) Reports**

100 **A. Treasurer Report**
101

102 Mr. Kleiner stated that there is not much to report. He continued that the PCC's balance is
103 \$5,000 in one account, and \$19,083.42 in the other.
104

105 Mr. Blomquist made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Schoefmann seconded the
106 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.
107

108 **7) New Business**

109 **A. Brewery Connections – Discuss the Last Two Membership Slots. Branch and Blade
110 or Elm City (Will)**
111

112 Mr. Schoefmann stated that Einbecker [Brewery] is such a big part of Einbeck's identity, and
113 there is blossoming craft brewery scene happening in the Keene area, so connecting breweries
114 from both Keene and Einbeck would be good. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Blomquist suggested
115 encouraging that relationship when a delegation from Einbeck comes to Keene. He continued

116 that by August, the people going to Einbeck should sit down and make a list of the topics they
117 want to connect with people about in Einbeck. He assumes that Mr. Herbst will sit down with
118 [whoever is filling in for Mayor Hansel] and go over a list of what the Einbeck committee's
119 thoughts and topics are for the future. For example, when an Einbeck delegation comes to
120 Keene, they might want to tour and spend an evening at a brewery.

121

122 Chair Mitchell stated that golf might be another topic to connect with. Discussion continued.
123 Mr. Blomquist stated that typically during the trip to Einbeck, there is time for the Keene PCC to
124 sit down and talk with Einbeck's PCC about everyone's thoughts for future activities.

125

126 **8) Next Meeting – Next Meeting is September 13, 2022 (Typically PCC does not meet**
127 **in July or August, may still want to meet in July or August to discuss travel)**

128

129 **9) More Time**

130 **A. Student pen-pal ideas**

131 Chair Mitchell stated that this is postponed.

132 **B. Discuss Keene Sentinel's James Rinker, Digital Community Engagement Journalist**
133 **– Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges**

134 Chair Mitchell stated that he and Ms. Mattson have emailed James Rinker but have not heard
135 back. He asked if anyone else has information. Others replied no.

136 **C. Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities**

137 Mr. Schoefmann stated that fundraising is important; it is just about trying to find the right
138 opportunity. Ms. Brunner stated that it seems like selling bratwurst will be a lot of effort. She
139 asked if it is worth it. Chair Mitchell replied yes, it worked, and brought in a lot of money when
140 they did it at Pumpkin Fest. He continued that some of the people who were previously involved
141 expressed to him that they would be still able to help. Discussion continued.

142

143 Chair Mitchell stated that something else that brought the PCC money was raffling off T-shirts,
144 hats, keychains, and so on and so forth. Mr. Schoefmann questioned whether the PCC can make
145 a request before the October exchange happens, so they can purchase items (to use for
146 fundraising). Mr. Blomquist stated that the group that is going to Einbeck should meet, at least
147 in August, to finalize as much as they can. Discussion ensued about the idea, which items would
148 be best to buy, how much to authorize and when, and so on and so forth. Mr. Blomquist spoke
149 about how they also need to think about the gift and whoever is representing Mayor Hansel will
150 be bringing to present to Einbeck's mayor – for example, one year the official gift from the City
151 of Keene to Einbeck was a tile with scenes from Keene for a "painting of the square." And
152 Einbeck has given gifts to Keene. The PCC will need to plan for purchasing gifts, and come up
153 with ideas for what the gifts could be, keeping transportability in mind.

154

155 After some more discussion, Mr. Blomquist made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to
156 \$500 for the purchase of fundraising items from Einbeck. Councilor Giacomo seconded the
157 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

158
159 Mr. Blomquist asked if they want to make a similar motion for up to \$500 for the official gift
160 from the PCC. Others replied that they should figure out what the gift will be first. Mr.
161 Blomquist stated that it would be an official gift from the City of Keene to the mayor of Einbeck,
162 presented by the PCC, coming out of the Einbeck \$5,000 (account). Discussion continued about
163 how the PCC will have to do that in September, and about gift ideas.

164
165 Discussion ensued about whether the PCC should meet in July and/or August, or if just the
166 people planning to travel to Einbeck should meet unofficially. The group decided to have an
167 official PCC meeting on Tuesday, July 12, in addition to a separate, private meeting of the
168 people traveling. PCC members noted that the private meeting of people who are traveling to
169 Einbeck cannot have a quorum of PCC members present. There will be no official August
170 meeting of the PCC.

171
172 Chair Mitchell asked Ms. Cardine if all of her questions, so far, are taken care of. Ms. Cardine
173 replied yes, it is just a matter of getting in contact with folks (in Einbeck). Chair Mitchell asked
174 Mr. Schoefmann if he could create some sort of text group or email chain so the people who will
175 be traveling can connect with each other. Mr. Schoefmann replied yes. Chair Mitchell stated
176 that Mr. Schoefmann can get the list of names, and people's contact information, from Ms.
177 Mattson. Chair Mitchell expressed the importance of everyone forwarding him their travel
178 information as soon as they have it. Mr. Blomquist added that people should CC: Ms. Mattson
179 when they email that information to Chair Mitchell.

180

181 **D. Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, Dance, Rugby**

182

183 **10) Adjournment**

184

185 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.

186

187 Respectfully submitted by,
188 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

189

190 Reviewed and edited by,
191 Helen Mattson, Staff liaison