

**CITY OF KEENE  
PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

Tuesday, September 13, 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:** August 9, 2022
4. **Board Business:**
  - a) Discuss Stonewall Farm Octoberfest – opportunity to participate – past member’s availability for Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – John
  - 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.
  - d) Pumpkin Fest participation for next year.
  - a.) PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook updates – provide access to Facebook page.
  - b.) Brewery and Rugby connections – 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 October 11, 2022. (*Should we cancel or reschedule?*)
9. **More Time:**
  - a) Discuss Keene Sentinel’s James Rinker, digital community engagement journalist - Media Opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges
  - b) Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities
  - c) Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, dance, rugby
  - d) KSC Music Department – interest in exchange for 2023 (KSC to Einbeck)
10. **Adjournment**

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

3  
4  
5 PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

5:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Helen Mattson, Executive Assistant

Members Not Present:

Mayor George Hansel  
Dawn Thomas-Smith  
Lena Kridlo

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

11  
12 Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

13  
14 **2) Roll Call – Appoint Alternates (if required) – Introduce New Member Doris**  
15 **McCollester**

16  
17 Vice Chair Schoefmann conducted roll call, welcoming new member Doris McCollester, and  
18 guest Rebecca Todd from Stonewall Farm.

19  
20 **3) Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 14, 2022**

21  
22 Mr. Kleiner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 14, 2022. Councilor  
23 Giacomo seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

24  
25 Ms. Mattson stated that she has a clarification to make, regarding this portion of the June 14  
26 meeting minutes:  
27

28 *Line 165: Discussion ensued about whether the PCC should meet in July and/or August, or if*  
29 *just the people planning to travel to Einbeck should meet unofficially. The group decided to*  
30 *have an official PCC meeting on Tuesday, July 12, in addition to a separate, private meeting of*  
31 *the people traveling. PCC members noted that the private meeting of people who are traveling*  
32 *to Einbeck cannot have a quorum of PCC members present. There will be no official August*  
33 *meeting of the PCC.*

34  
35 Ms. Mattson stated that not as a correction to the minutes, but as a point of clarification, it should  
36 be noted that the official meeting scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> was canceled. She continued that an  
37 unofficial meeting was held July 20<sup>th</sup> for travelers only, at the home of John Mitchell. The  
38 August meeting proceeded as scheduled.

39 **4) Board Business**

40 **A. Discuss Stonewall Farm Octoberfest - opportunity to participate – Rebecca Todd,**  
41 **Executive Director**

42  
43 Chair Mitchell asked to hear from Rebecca Todd.

44  
45 Ms. Todd stated that Stonewall Farm is planning an Octoberfest, a family-friendly event that  
46 includes games and a beer garden. She continued that it will be modeled on a true, German  
47 Octoberfest. Stonewall Farm would like to highlight the relationship between Keene and  
48 Einbeck, Germany. They are trying to source beer from Einbeck and would welcome the PCC's  
49 assistance, suggestions, and contributions. She spoke with the Mayor, who suggested the PCC  
50 might want to have a table at the event or do some educational work around the partnership.

51  
52 Councilor Giacomo asked if it is separate from the event the Sentinel is hosting at Stonewall  
53 Farm. Ms. Todd replied yes, and the Sentinel's event has changed locations.

54  
55 Discussion ensued about the PCC's possible involvement, and who from the PCC will be in  
56 Keene at the time, since the event will be at the same time as the Keene delegation will be in  
57 Einbeck. Chair Mitchell asked if Stonewall Farm hopes it will be an annual event. Ms. Todd  
58 replied yes. Chair Mitchell questioned whether it could be a potential fundraiser for the PCC.  
59 Ms. Todd replied yes, possibly. Discussion continued. Chair Mitchell stated that he is sure the  
60 PCC can be involved in some way, but probably their involvement could be greater *next* year,  
61 considering that several PCC members will be in Einbeck this year at the time of the event.

62  
63 Mr. Blomquist suggested maybe Mr. Schoefmann and someone else could take the PCC's fact  
64 sheet that Ms. Mattson has, reproduce it on poster board, and have it displayed at the Stonewall  
65 Farm event. Chair Mitchell added that Ms. Thomas-Smith probably has information to use as  
66 well, and photos. Discussion continued.

67  
68 Ms. Brunner asked if Stonewall Farm is planning a Holiday Market event for the winter. Ms.  
69 Todd replied yes. Mr. Blomquist replied that the PCC might be able to be more involved in that  
70 event. Ms. Brunner stated that the Holiday Market event might be a better target for the PCC

71 this year, given the timing, and in future years, the PCC would be more prepared for Oktoberfest.  
72 Ms. Todd agreed and stated that she likes the idea of the PCC having informational materials at  
73 Oktoberfest this year; the PCC does not have to have someone sitting at a table this time. Chair  
74 Mitchell replied that he is confident the PCC *can* arrange to have someone sitting at the table.  
75 Discussion continued. Chair Mitchell thanked Ms. Todd for coming to them with this  
76 opportunity and continued that they are happy to work with her and Stonewall Farm.

77  
78 Councilor Giacomo gave Ms. Todd advice about potential local sources of Einbeck beer for the  
79 event. Discussion ensued about the logistics of Einbeck beer. Councilor Giacomo asked Ms.  
80 Todd to let the PCC know if there is anything specific Stonewall Farm would like the PCC  
81 members/Keene delegation to get from Einbeck, for next year's Oktoberfest, so they can  
82 coordinate that.

83

84 **B. Planning for Keene Delegation to Einbeck – October 7-15, 2022**

85 **1) Discuss a list of people the committee would like to connect with in Einbeck and**  
86 **topics**

87

88 Chair Mitchell stated that the only update he has is that anyone going to Einbeck who has not  
89 heard from their host family should be patient, because the Einbeck Committee will be meeting  
90 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and everything will be finalized then. Everything is on track with the Einbeck  
91 Committee and going well. Einbeck has emphasized that they will slightly tone down the pace  
92 of the visit. Discussion ensued regarding the number of people going in the Keene delegation,  
93 which Ms. Mattson reported is 12.

94

95 Chair Mitchell briefly interrupted the agenda and asked PCC members to introduce themselves  
96 to new member Doris McCollester, and for Ms. McCollester to introduce herself as well.

97

98 Councilor Giacomo asked if the Einbeck Committee plans to release the full itinerary when they  
99 meet on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Chair Mitchell replied that he does not know. Discussion ensued.

100

101 Chair Mitchell asked if anyone had general questions about planning. Mr. Kleiner asked if  
102 Elizabeth Cardine and the other person from the charter school are still going. Chair Mitchell  
103 replied yes.

104

105 Brief discussion ensued about flights, transportation, and other logistics.

106

107 **C. Discuss "Taste of Keene" for next year. Brats and Kraut sales – potential free use of**  
108 **grill and donation for brats and kraut**

109

110 Chair Mitchell asked if there was anything to discuss now about next year's Taste of Keene  
111 event. Mr. Kleiner stated that it will definitely be happening. Chair Mitchell stated that he  
112 knows the PCC cannot sell beer anymore. He asked if the PCC will be able to sell brats and  
113 kraut. Mr. Kleiner replied that he does not see why not, as long as they follow the same rules as

114 the other food vendors, regarding the Health and Fire inspections. Chair Mitchell replied yes,  
115 they have done that in the past, while selling at Pumpkin Fest. Ms. Mattson stated that Fire and  
116 Health will need to inspect the grill.

117  
118 Chair Mitchell asked if there is support from the PCC, and if PCC members feel they can show  
119 up to do this event. Discussion ensued. Mr. Blomquist stated that it sounds like there is PCC  
120 support, and around January, they will need to start gathering a list of volunteers to help. Chair  
121 Mitchell stated that they need food donations as well. He continued that donations of food and  
122 supplies might be challenging, and it is not too early to start working on this. He will talk with  
123 people who used to sell at Pumpkin Fest on behalf of the PCC, to see who they got donations  
124 from in the past. Ms. Mattson stated that insurance should fall under the City umbrella plan –  
125 same as Pumpkin Fest - or under the event's insurer.

126

127 **D. PCC Exchange Survey/Facebook Updates – if any**

128

129 Mr. Blomquist suggested the PCC ask Ms. Thomas-Smith to give one or two PCC members who  
130 are going to Einbeck the ability to (post to) the PCC's Facebook page, with a few photos and  
131 blurbs about what is happening.

132 **E. Brewery Connections – Discuss the last two membership slot(s). Branch and Blade**  
133 **or Elm City – Will**

134

135 Mr. Schoefmann stated that this is something for PCC folks to discuss with Einbeck folks when  
136 they are in Einbeck, as Mr. Blomquist was saying – what do they want to focus on, in terms of  
137 discussion points? He would be happy to talk with someone about a potential brewery exchange.

138

139 Chair Mitchell asked PCC members to email him regarding potential conversations they want to  
140 have, such as the brewery connections, or golf, or anything else. He continued that he will  
141 forward those emails (to Einbeck), and that will start Keene's conversations with Einbeck about  
142 how to broaden the connections. Mr. Blomquist replied that they might want to follow up with  
143 Parks & Rec, because the last time Einbeck folks came here, the delegation included the Director  
144 of Recreation from Einbeck and two staff members, and the idea was for it to be a YMCA sort of  
145 connection. He continued that one of the things Chair Mitchell will be doing is sitting down and  
146 going over, like they used to do with Albert Thormann, [the list of topics and ideas]. Einbeck  
147 wants to continue that YMCA/Parks & Rec/Youth connection. That is something that has been  
148 lost, with the loss of the soccer exchange. Chair Mitchell agreed but asked everyone to please  
149 email him with these topics and ideas. He continued that he knows of at least two sports/fitness  
150 groups in Einbeck that are eager to do exchanges with Keene. Ms. McColleston asked about  
151 music as a potential connection. Chair Mitchell replied absolutely. Ms. McColleston replied that  
152 Germans are very into classical music in particular. Chair Mitchell replied that Keene State  
153 College does a chorale group exchange. Discussion continued.

154

155 **5) Communications**

156

157 Chair Mitchell stated that he has no communications to report, beyond what he already reported  
158 in agenda item 4.B.

159

160 **6) Reports**

161 **A. Treasurer Report**

162

163 Mr. Kleiner reported that per Ms. Mattson's email, the figures have not changed; there is  
164 \$19,000 in the PCC account and \$5,000 from the City allocation. However, they are not in the  
165 new system yet, because the Finance Department is still migrating over, so the PCC cannot  
166 access the money right now.

167

168 Mr. Schoefmann made a motion to accept the treasurer report. Mr. Blomquist seconded the  
169 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

170

171 **7) New Business**

172 **A. Discussion about gift ideas for Einbeck's mayor from the PCC to be presented by**  
173 **the acting mayor**

174

175 Mr. Schoefmann reported that his visit to an artisan's fair introduced him to the work of an artist  
176 in Westmoreland, which would go with the PCC's discussion of a gift of Walldog art. Mr.  
177 Blomquist replied that that sounds good. He continued that they need to keep transportability in  
178 mind. Discussion continued. Chair Mitchell stated that he has an idea, which would not be for  
179 this October trip, but for future trips when sports groups and school groups from Keene are going  
180 to Einbeck – what if the PCC came up with a certain theme, and each group gave Einbeck an art  
181 piece that fit the theme? He continued that if each art piece given goes together, Einbeck could  
182 have a wall (say, in the new town hall) dedicated to this collection that would continue to  
183 increase. That would be easier for Einbeck folks, rather than continuing to search for wall space  
184 for multiple, individual pieces. He continued that in the meantime, it would be great if Mr.  
185 Schoefmann could follow up with this Westmoreland artist. Mr. Schoefmann replied yes, and  
186 added that Ms. Brunner can talk with Prime Roast about a lead on another artist as well, who  
187 may have something like what Chair Mitchell is talking about, on a more consistent basis.  
188 Discussion continued.

189

190 Ms. McCollester asked if Keene has ever given Einbeck a city key. Usually that is done mayor  
191 to mayor. Mr. Blomquist replied that they have done that in the past, but possibly not since  
192 Kendall Lane was mayor. Ms. McCollester stated that it could be on a plaque. Discussion  
193 continued. Councilor Giacomo stated that there is also a book of Walldog murals, as possible  
194 gift. Mr. Blomquist spoke in favor of the Walldogs book and one or two mural prints at a time.  
195 He asked if he should make a motion to authorize a certain amount of PCC funds for that.

196

197 Mr. Kleiner stated that the PCC already did two different motions – one for \$500 for fundraising  
198 items, and one for \$500 for the official gift from the PCC. Ms. Mattson stated that she will find  
199 out how much it would cost to have a city key made. Ms. Brunner stated that she is looking at

200 the meeting minutes, and it seems like the PCC had said that they *should* make a motion to  
201 authorize funds for the gift, but never actually did.

202

203 Chair Mitchell stated that it seems like they have competing gift ideas. He asked if that is  
204 accurate. Mr. Schoefmann replied that he thinks they should look at both gift ideas. Chair  
205 Mitchell asked if he means bringing this back to the next meeting. Mr. Schoefmann replied no,  
206 they could do this via email.

207

208 Ms. Brunner suggested they authorize Chair Mitchell to make the final decision. She continued  
209 that they can authorize him to spend up to a certain amount, and he can make the decision based  
210 on what is actually possible based on the time period and the budget. Discussion ensued about  
211 the potential cost of the key/plaque and the book and prints, and the transportability of them, and  
212 the options, including which Walldog print to use.

213

214 Ms. Brunner made a motion to authorize Chair John Mitchell to spend up to \$300 to purchase a  
215 gift for the PCC's trip to Einbeck. Councilor Giacomo seconded the motion.

216

217 Discussion ensued about the amount. Other PCC members advocated for "up to \$500" instead,  
218 just in case.

219

220 Ms. Brunner stated that she will amend her motion to "\$500" instead of \$300. Councilor  
221 Giacomo seconded the amendment. The amended motion passed by unanimous vote.

222

223 Councilor Giacomo stated that he can get the book, and asked Ms. Brunner if she can talk with  
224 Judy Rogers at Prime Roast. Ms. Brunner replied yes. Ms. Mattson asked, for clarification, if  
225 the idea is to get the book, a print, and perhaps a key. Chair Mitchell asked if the PCC is  
226 comfortable with their ability to accomplish this in time for traveling in October. Others replied  
227 yes.

228

229 **8) Next Meeting – September 13, 2022**

230

231 Chair Mitchell stated that the next meeting is September 13, 2022. Discussion ensued about  
232 whether a quorum is likely to be present. Ms. Mattson stated that Ms. Thomas-Smith is planning  
233 on coming.

234

235 **9) More Time**

236 **A. Student pen-pal ideas – high school 16-18 year olds**

237 **B. Discuss Keene Sentinel's James Rinker, digital community engagement journalist –**  
238 **media opportunities to help promote PCC events and exchanges**

239 **C. Fundraising Ideas/Opportunities**

240 **D. Future Exchange Ideas – YMCA, dance, rugby**

241 **E. KSC Music Department – interest in exchange for 2023 (KSC to Einbeck)**

242

243 Chair Mitchell asked if anyone has anything to say about any of the items that are on more time.  
244

245 Ms. Brunner stated that the student pen-pal idea was an idea the PCC had thrown out there due to  
246 COVID-19 restrictions, as a way to maintain connections when it was not possible to do in-  
247 person exchanges. Others replied that it is okay to take it off the agenda now. Chair Mitchell  
248 stated that now the charter school is getting involved, and the high school has expressed an  
249 interest in continuing the exchange.  
250

251 Councilor Giacomo stated that regarding fundraising ideas and opportunities, he was elected as  
252 Interim President of Let It Shine. He continued that this year there is not much happening; Let It  
253 Shine is trying to get together with the downtown group and the Chamber, to see if they can get  
254 something small put together for this year. Next year they have more planned for Pumpkin Fest.  
255 They will keep the PCC in mind and in the loop.  
256

257 Chair Mitchell asked Mr. Schoefmann about rugby. Mr. Schoefmann replied he will be in  
258 Einbeck and they could find a place to meet perhaps. He continued that he may try to find an  
259 opportunity to link up with some of the local clubs by reaching out ahead of time, telling them he  
260 will be in Einbeck. Chair Mitchell replied that they can email the mayor in Einbeck, who has a  
261 wide sports connection. He asked if he can give the Bürgermeisterin Mr. Schoefmann's name.  
262 Mr. Schoefmann replied yes he could.  
263

264 Mr. Kleiner suggested taking James Rinker of the Keene Sentinel off of the more time list,  
265 because Mr. Rinker has not responded. Others agreed. Ms. Mattson stated that she thinks Mr.  
266 Rinker got overwhelmed, because there were so many non-profits wanting to work with him.  
267

268 Ms. Brunner stated that she talked to Gina De Santis who is really into soccer, and told her that  
269 the PCC used to have a youth soccer exchange and wondered if she would be interested in  
270 helping start it up again. If anyone is interested, they could reach out to her to talk about it.  
271 Discussion ensued.  
272

## 273 10) Adjournment

274

275 There being no further business, Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.  
276

277 Respectfully submitted by,  
278 Britta Reida, Minute Taker  
279

280 Reviewed and edited by,  
281 Helen Mattson, Staff Liaison