

Approved 11.03.2022

**Pownal Economic Sustainability and Development Committee
September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Call to order by Susan Peters - 6:37

Present – Susan Peters Chair, Andy O’Brien – Select Board, Paul Schumann, Pat Hodgdon

Discussion of Minutes from 8/23/22.

Paul asked what DOT is offering with their matching grants.. Clarification is needed. Under growth study - #2 - all properties should read residential. Change private to residential. Under Other re: Knight’s field, clarification regarding a portion of Knight’s field.

Paul moved to approve minutes with changes. Susan seconds. Pat abstains since she was not present on 8/23/22. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes from 12/16/21: Susan makes motion to approve, Paul seconds all in favor with correction of Andy’s name.

Approval of Minutes from 10/13/21 –

Paul questioned whether we needed to approve minutes from prior meetings when we were a working group rather than a committee. Andy suggested that the minutes be changed to meeting notes. No motion/vote was taken on the 10/13/21 minutes.

Old Business:

New Form of Government for Pownal:

Susan launches a discussion on new form of government for Pownal, primarily that which includes a town manager. Who should be part of this conversation – committee chairs, select board, department heads?

Andy did some research and didn’t find much on changing the form of government. From Maine Municipal Association, towns may adopt state statutory form or customize their own. Paul states that this will affect all salaries and job descriptions. Public approval will be needed and this isn’t a simple process. How do we present it to town chairs that we have taken on this task?

Susan says that this should fall under economic development because the lack of help hinders our development.

Paul says that a focus on a new form of government will be all consuming and he doesn’t care to be part of the PESD cmtee if we take on this task. He questioned whether this committee should be focusing on this.

Approved 11.03.2022

Pat agreed with Susan saying that this committee is struggling to have a purpose that is attainable, so why not take on this project at least to get it started.

Discussion ensued on how to approach people with the need for a town manager. Andy thinks it might be better received if the Select board initiates a discussion on the topic by having someone from the public bring it up at a Select Board meeting. Sept 26th was chosen as a select board meeting date however members of this committee will present the suggestion that the Select Board consider forming a committee to analyze a new form of government.

Business Equipment Tax

Discussion about personal property/business equipment tax program with what Pat found out from assessor, Donna.

Pownal already has a personal property/business equipment tax that is assessed on those who voluntarily declare business assets. It was discussed that the tax should apply to all. Discussion to be continued.

For the next meeting, we will discuss the Vision, zoning and the Village District.

Paul moves to adjourn. Susan seconds. 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Hodgdon, Committee Secretary.

Approved by the committee at meeting on 11/3/2022.