

Pownal Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2021
6:30pm @ ZOOM

Present: Kathy Hogue, Russ Schmidt, Susan Peters, Christine Watson, Joan Mueller, Jon Morris, Heidi Curry (All via Zoom). Excused: Coren Wheeler

1. The minutes of December 8, 2020 were approved.
2. There was discussion regarding an email from David Buchanan regarding Agritourism. Heidi felt this is not a comprehensive plan task and that he could bring these ideas to the Planning Board for discussion regarding potential ordinances. Kathy and Marcia said that the survey results supported agriculture and tourism consistent with our rural character. Kathy will respond to David with what has been discussed tonight.
3. Heidi updated the Committee on discussions the Select Board has had regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The Select Board is looking for the Plan to be used as an internal planning tool and is not looking for it to be approved by the State. Also the Select Board does not want the Plan to designate specific Growth Areas. The Plan could suggest an openness to designating a TIF. Russ said that Tom at State Planning said that Pownal has never had an approved Plan that is consistent with State regulations; the only way a Town can collect impact fees is when it has an approved plan. Heidi said the Board is aware of the issues surrounding impact fees and will continue to discuss. They would like the Plan to be completed by March 1 ready for public review. Kathy brought up the Select Board minutes from the December meeting indicating etiquette issues and Jon said that the term was actually editing. He indicated the edit process has been frustrating to watch. The information is there- and the grammar, etc. is less important. Susan felt we had made a lot of progress in the last few meetings. Jon also said it is important to have the Plan done when negotiations might begin with a large utility. Joan felt that it was important to have a well written document that we can be proud of- why the rush? Jon explained that the Town meeting will be in June but because it will be on zoom, the ballots need to meet absentee ballot timelines- mid- March. The important part- data- are complete. We need to meet the Select Board deadline.

Russ wondered if this would then truly be a comprehensive plan or just a planning document and thought we need to know what needs to be in the document. Jon asked that we send the Board the Plan as it is today, and they will provide comments by next Select Board meeting. Susan asked whether we need goals and strategies- or should committees set these? Jon said the Plan has usually done this. However, they will have little bearing on what the Select Board actually decides. We can either put them in or leave them out. Susan asked what about having just Goals- Jon thought that was a good idea. Kathy pointed out that Goals and Strategies have been written for most sections- so why not keep them in for now. Jon thought that was fine. Heidi reiterated that the information in the Plan needs to get out. Both Jon and Heidi acknowledged the good work that has already

been done and hoped that their decisions did not offend anyone. Marcia will send out the MS word document to Jon and Heidi after Susan puts in her latest update- Thursday am.

Jon will have Melissa correct the Select Board minutes.

4. Kathy brought up the idea of an edit workshop to streamline the edit process, either in person at Town Hall or zoom (or both). There was discussion about the timeline but also benefit in having the diversity of opinions that the entire group represents. Also most felt that it was important that the document be clear and grammatically correct. The Committee decided to meet Sunday January 17 9-12 for an extended edit session. There was further discussion about stepping up meeting frequency but fitting them into the Town meeting calendar proved challenging.
5. A good portion of the Natural Resources section was completed.

Respectively submitted,

Marcia Bowen

Committee Members:

*Marcia Bowen, Adam Haynes, Kathy Hogue (Chair), Jon Morris (Selectman),
Joan Mueller, Susan Peters, Russ Schmidt, Christine Watson, Coren Wheeler*