

POWNAI COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
Focus Groups / July 17 – August 28, 2018
REPORT

July 17	Nichols barn, Hodsdon Road	20 people attended
July 24	Methodist Church	25
July 31	Mallett Hall	12
August 7	William Allen Farm	8
August 14	Fire Station	12
August 21	NP Community Club	16
August 28	PES	<u>20</u>
		112

“Give one word that describes Pownal for you.”

agrarian	North Pownal Plastic Pipe Players
agriculture	outdoor activities x 2
beautiful x 4	peaceful x 10
Bradbury Mountain	people x 2
bucolic	picturesque x 2
changing	potential
community x 3	Pownal School x 3
convenient (but not too close)	quiet x 2
country x 3	regional step-child
diverse x 2	renewal
done	retirement
earthy	rural x 11
economics (house paid off)	rustic
family x 2	small, remote (near big cities) x 4
farm	Short Stop
feels right	slow-paced
freedom	social
friendly x 3	spacious x 2
Garden Spot	special
grounding	traditional
heaven	trails
historic	unique
home x 6	wild
informal gatherings	wildlife x 4
land	woods x 4
land legacy for families	
lovely	
magical	
nature	
nice living x 2	

“What would you want to remain the same?”

Affordable
agriculture
Arts x 2 (i.e. Bradbury Mountain Arts)
buildings / historic sites / sense of history x 4
businesses consistent with our character (Garden Spot, berry farm, cider house, etc.)
clean, natural environment
community / neighbors x 3
conservation
controlling growth through ordinances
dirt roads x 2
diverse community regardless of income
farms / pick-your own – farmstands x 2
fire and rescue services x 2
local control / town and school x 4
friendly
no change
small town government x 5
neighbor helping neighbor x 2
population
privacy
Royal River Conservation Trust continue its work x 2
rural character / open space x 9
School to remain local x 4
tax structure that rewards large land owners
trail networks
town-owned land preserved x 2
volunteer opportunities x 3

“What needs to change?”

Business Structure / Village District

1. Attract businesses that would blend with our rural character but would add to help offset tax base x 2
2. Create zoning that would encourage more businesses
3. Create a village district x 3

Community

1. Need local gathering place x 4
2. Need restaurants x 4
3. Community/Farmers Market x 4
4. Community Center
5. More community events not specifically tied to the school (i.e. Pumpkin Festival)
6. Community bulletin board
7. Social media for Pownal residents
8. Library
9. Swap Shop
10. More youth participation
11. Return the Grange

Demographics

1. Attract more young people and families x 2

Farming

1. Encourage by leasing lands for organic farming
2. Encourage farming apprenticeships
3. Good farm land makes for good septic systems
4. Find creative solutions for young farmers to acquire land and housing

Health / Safety

1. Pollution
2. Light pollution – too much
3. Speeders / improved traffic control x 2
4. Noise from automatic weapons
5. Improve fire station
6. Have local ambulance service
7. Speed limit on Route 9
8. Traffic light at Pownal Center
9. Directional signs at Bradbury Mountain x 2
10. Safe bike lanes or bike trail x 4
11. Aging in Place initiative (FCS) x 2

Housing

1. Senior, cluster, cost-friendly x 2

Land Resources

1. Research funding or land resources; i.e. grants, foundations, benefactors, Land Trusts, large land owners, etc.
2. Find a way to keep our large lots

Municipal / Government

1. Town garage – new location?
2. Better public works department
3. Explore other options for internet service
4. Improve internet and cell phone service
5. Improve relations with surrounding towns
6. “Welcome Wagon” or education and resources for Pownal living x 2
7. Improve communications with town and community events
8. Increase volunteerism x 2
9. Increase participation at Town Meeting
10. Relook at Impact Fee Ordinance
11. Only have 1 state representative for Pownal
12. Eliminate taxes on greenhouses

Recreation

1. Expand recreation opportunities – recreation department

Resources

1. Identify and capitalize on our existing resources

Rural character

1. Change building code to incorporate rural/historic to retail rural feel

School

1. Budget is out of our hands, but how do we keep our school?
2. More control/voice in education
3. Secure mandated funds for education
4. Increase volunteerism

Sustainability

1. Proactive effort to maintain what we have, but at what cost?

Taxes

1. Need alternative tax base other than property tax
2. Retain undeveloped land through easements, etc. to reduce tax burden
3. Keep rural character and shift revenue from individual property tax to business revenue

Transportation

1. Refurbish West Pownal railroad track/station
2. Public transportation to Freeport and Pineland

Water

1. Protect our underground water resources x 2
2. Erosion control around rivers – new road construction and ditching may be causing erosion into and around our rivers

“How would you like to see Pownal in 10 years?”

Business Structure / Village District

1. Gas station in town
2. Enlarged village district with businesses to complement Pownal’s rural character x 3
3. Restaurants
- 4.

Community

1. Farmers/Community Market x 5
2. Community gathering places and restaurants x 2
3. Increased communications for municipal, school and community x 3
4. Arts Centers and/or areas to encourage creative collaboration x 3
5. Encourage small scale businesses that fit with Pownal’s rural character x 3
6. Have retail gathering spaces / restaurants / community centers x 3
7. Welcome Wagon” and town information for new residents
8. Increased communication for town and school

Demographics

1. More young people and families living here while keeping original families in town x 2

Farming

1. Enhanced agricultural resources
2. Increased farming / agricultural network x 2

Health/Safety

1. Clean environment
2. Safe roads with bike lanes – safe way for students to get to school
3. Safe horse trail
4. Improved Fire and Rescue services – new fire station?
5. Senior Housing opportunities / Aging in Place Program / Small nursing home

Housing

1. Senior Housing
2. Affordable Housing
3. Cluster Housing

Municipal / Government

1. Town government and town meeting stays the same

Recreation

1. Identify/create small parks on appropriate town-owned land / picnicking, fishing, etc.
2. Pownal as a recreation destination

Rural Character / Open Space

1. Minimalized development / keep things the same x 2
2. Utility corridors capitalized
3. Moratorium or limit number of building permits for new construction
4. Keep taxes low for large parcels to retain rural character
5. Curb CMP’s effect on North Pownal character
6. Good zoning to keep rural character / thoughtful home building ordinances

School

1. Pownal Elementary School stays in town x 3

Sustainability

1. Maintain quality of life as inevitable population increases
2. Keep dirt roads
3. Improved relations with surrounding towns
4. Conservation plans keep forests intact

Transportation

1. Have public transportation / driverless cars
2. "West Pownal RR track / station refurbished"

Water

1. Erosion control around rivers