

Pownal Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
January 14, 2020
6:30 – 8:00pm @ Mallett Hall

Present: Kathy Hogue, Marcia Bowen, Coren Wheeler, Heidi Curry, Christine Watson, Russ Schmidt, Adam Haynes

Absent: Jon Morris

Excused: Joan Mueller, Susan Peters

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

1. The minutes of November December 10, 2019 were approved unanimously as written.
2. Finances / Susan: An email from Susan indicated there were no expenditures this month. As was true last month, we have spent \$2,027.23 of our \$6,000 budget.
3. Kathy wanted to be sure everyone saw the note sent to Dick Clarke from our Committee and his response.
4. Kathy checked to see if everyone had turned in their survey forms. They have. She reminded everyone to fill out the Town information form for committee members.
5. The Committee members had reviewed other Plans (Durham, North Yarmouth, and Topsham) and then discussed the format for Pownal's plan. Russ liked Durham's and North Yarmouth's. He wondered about what software they used that enabled insertion of graphics. Kathy has publisher on her computer. Coren liked the graphics in Durham's but felt it was long and perhaps too 'busy'. Bowdoin's was long but not exemplary. Coren liked that survey results were published in Durham and felt the executive summary had all the necessary information. The maps and appendices were placed in the back of the document. Our survey did not include anything about fiscal capacity. We did have a capital investment plan in the previous plan, perhaps written by capital improvement and budget committees. Christine thought Topsham was broken down quite a bit, most thought it was too intense. They have information for the next 25 years. Durham and North Yarmouth both have land use plans, the latter especially geared towards the Town Center. Marcia discussed the Durham plan, which only had 49 survey responses but forced the land use issue and had a Town vote on one of the three land use options. All of these plans hired a consultant. Our survey results show that Town residents want things to remain the same, but how does that happen? Most felt that our role is to present information as a reference tool and suggested strategies, with others to carry those strategies forward. We also need to remember that the survey results represent the demographics of the survey respondents but not the population as a whole. The crux is everyone wants things to stay the same but the Town inevitably will grow; however, we do not want the Plan to just be a simple update. Consensus was that the Plan should begin with goals and strategies for each section, as Will suggested but in reality we can write in whatever order we chose, because we can always reorder sections later. Once sections are written, we can come back together, discuss the order; perhaps at that time we may need editorial help or planning guidance. Also Coren thought that we could

include selected comments or a synopsis of comments; Marcia also suggested adding focus group thoughts and survey graphics where appropriate. Christine asked what our deadline was – town meeting? All thought that was too optimistic, perhaps the end of the year? GP COG has a ton of information; North Yarmouth has tables from them that include Pownal. There was discussion of where best to include road and sidewalk information, BREEZ (Transportation) and whether that should spill over into regional coordination section. The sections were assigned as follows:

Natural resources- Marcia

Public Education- Joan

Land use- Adam and Russ

Housing and growth- Coren

Rural character, open space- Kathy.

Public facilities and services; Regional Coordination- Susan and Heidi

Town Government and Community Education- Christine

Historic and archeological resources- Kathy

Capital investment and fiscal capacity- perhaps select board or committee could do this. Discussion of whether a future land use plan was needed, as Durham did. Kathy advised us to keep looking at the vision section to keep our sections on course. We decided not to share on google docs at this point. We may need an editor/formatter. Would Will consider doing some paid work to make sure we are on track? We elected to submit our drafts in advance of next meeting. Many members will not be available for the February meeting so Committee decided to have our next meeting on March 3 (Election Day!) and to plan on a longer meeting. Marcia asked if we need to go back to the Town with goals/strategies. It was agreed that we don't need to go back to the Town but perhaps to committees and select board.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Action items

Everyone begin writing individual sections and submit to Kathy by end of February. She will send to the Committee.

Respectively submitted,

Marcia Bowen

Committee Members:

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