

Pownal Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
November 13, 2018
MINUTES

Present: Adam Haynes, Kathy Hogue, Marcia Bowen, Joan Mueller, Susan Peters, Russ Schmidt, Christine Watson, Coren Wheeler, Jon Morris
Excused: Heidi Curry

1. **Approve minutes.** The October 9, 2018 minutes were approved as written.
2. **Finances:** Susan had no new activities to report.
3. **Continue review process for survey:** The committee is working from the working survey document prepared by Kathy. Russ reported on recommendations from the Town, which include specific questions such the hours the office is open, what form of government is desired, etc. This is section 2d of the working survey. It was agreed that the question should be open ended with space for comments. There was further discussion about how to evaluate and weigh comments. Marcia mentioned New Gloucester has a nice graphic that displays the number and type of comment. The question was raised about the exact needs of Town people for the Town office- is it simply to pay taxes and register car? Could it be more of a community hub?
4. Jon reported that CMP has proposed power line that could have huge expansion in Pownal, costing \$30 million on their Town properties, which could generate \$500k per year in taxes. The Select board is considering creating a TIF, in which case the CMP valuation is removed from the Town and CMP payments would be placed in the general fund. Jon raised this issue because the Comprehensive Plan would be important in determining where expenditures should be made if new monies are generated by the project. There was further discussion about the TIF and the CMP project.
5. The committee asked Jon about the Town government structure question and confirmed it was requested by the Selectmen. Jon indicated that there are fewer and fewer people willing to step up to the demanding position of Selectman, and compensation is low. So he felt it was important to ask the question. We could use Christine's email describing the different forms of government as a preface to the question. In general, the survey is an excellent opportunity to solicit opinions on topics that might not be germane to the Plan but are important to the Town.
6. The questions related to Town Services and Facilities were discussed. The committee discussed how to frame question on the desired level of growth and whether it should be moved to the section on housing and growth. Decided to leave it as is for now as we need it addressed up front. While the growth anticipated in the last Plan was not achieved (due to economic downturn), approximately 70 new housing permits have been granted and the new back lot ordinance seems to have resulted in new housing permits. GP COG may

be able to provide additional information on anticipated growth, although there was no consensus whether anticipated future growth is important to include in the Plan.

7. Question on Solid waste: There was discussion of both recycling and solid waste programs. We are dependent on Eco-Maine and Freeport transfer stations for these programs and thus have little control over our waste disposal. However, the consensus was that there still should be a question on solid waste in the survey. Another topic is whether we should have expanded services (e.g. a spring and fall clean up, silver bullet) with an increase in taxes.
8. Question on Public works: The adequacy of current garages was discussed. The fire garage's small size necessitates ordering a special truck. Town trucks are outside on dirt driveway. Should we consider combining Public Works and Public Safety? The Needs Assessment study provides good information, but was done in 2010. The focus group at the Fire Station indicated strong Public Safety needs including new recruits, stairs, and a new building. These needs might not be known to the majority of folks in town and perhaps questions first need to inform briefly, on the results of the 2010 needs assessment.
9. Long term vegetation management: Discussion of current trenching, with both good and bad experiences. Is this even a comprehensive plan question? It was decided to take out parts b and d. The gravel road question is more about putting them in regular rotation/maintenance. This question should be reworded perhaps along the lines of 'should we improve gravel roads' ... or 'do you our consider gravel roads an asset or liability?'
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully 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