



TOWN-WIDE SURVEY

Comprehensive Plan

Dear Citizens of Pownal,

The time has come to create a new Comprehensive Plan for our Town. This official document is the basis for determining public policy that will guide Pownal for the next ten years.

As a citizen of Pownal, your vision, influence and participation in our community's comprehensive planning process is vital. As a taxpayer and/or voter, your choice and your money will decide the way that our municipality will grow and develop.

Services provided by our Town are paid for by property taxes. Your investment in our community is the reason we are asking for your cooperation in the creation of our new comprehensive plan. It is made with you, for you, and because of you so that Pownal may remain "Independent unto Itself" and maintain sustainability that is rooted in our history.

Your involvement in this survey will communicate the goals, concepts, guidelines, and proposals for consideration and help guide our committee to create a public policy plan that clearly outlines the vision of Pownal Citizens.

We encourage you to take the time to complete this important survey. Additional comments and/or feedback are welcomed. Thank you for helping plan Pownal's future.

*Respectfully,
The Comprehensive Plan Committee*

Marcia Bowen (Secretary), Heidi Curry, Adam Haynes, Kathy Hogue (Chair), Will Johnston (Consultant), Jon Morris (Selectman), Joan Mueller, Susan Peters (Treasurer), Russ Schmidt, Coren Wheeler

FILLING OUT THE SURVEY

~~Two surveys will be mailed to every household on September 16.~~

The Town asks that property owners and/or every member of the household over 18 years of age fill out one survey each.

You may either:

- Fill out the survey on line via our Town's website www.pownalmaine.org/??? or
- Fill out a paper survey..

If you need additional surveys, please contact the Town office, 688-4611.

The survey can also be completed using an on-line survey tool via our Town's website www.pownalmaine.org

Two surveys will be mailed to every household on September 16.

Please complete an on-line survey or return your paper survey to the Town office no later than October 8, 2019.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please indicate which of the following best describes your residency in Pownal:

- Year-round resident (more than 6 months/year)
- Seasonal resident (less than 6 months/year)
- Non-resident property owner
- Non-resident business owner
- Student
- None of the above

Please indicate which one or more of the following apply to you:

- Owner of residential home/unit in Pownal
- Renter of a residential home/unit in Pownal
- Owner of vacant land in Pownal
- Owner of business in Pownal
- None of the above

If you are a resident, how many years have you lived in Pownal?

- Less than 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 11 – 15 years
- 16 – 20 years
- More than 20 years
- Does not apply

What is your age?

- 18–25
- 26-34
- 35-44

- 45-54
- 55-70
- 70+

A. GOVERNMENT

There are two basic forms of local government in Maine: The “direct” form in which the Town meeting serves as the legislative body, passing laws, approving the spending of monies; and the “representational” form in which an elected council serves as the legislative body. Our Town Government includes an Annual Meeting, a Municipal Office, a Department of Public Works, and a Public Safety Department. Currently our municipal office includes an Administrative Assistant, Deputy Clerk, three Selectmen, and a Code Enforcement Officer who is shared with North Yarmouth.

The five basic variations of these two forms are:

- **Town Meeting / Selectmen**: Most common in Maine. Town meeting is held once a year to pass any needed laws/ordinances, approve a budget, and to levy taxes. It also elects various Town officers.
- **Town Meeting / Selectmen / Manager** is the 2nd most common form of local government in Maine. With a manager, the Selectmen will continue to serve as the Town’s executive body.
- **Council / Town Meeting / Manager** is a variation where the legislative functions of government are shared between the Town meeting and elected council.
- **Council / Manager** form of government has the council as the elected body which serves both the legislative and executive functions and must be adopted through the local charter.
- **Council/Mayor/Administrator** form of government supports a mayor (elected by the council) who has broad powers of appointment, administration and legislation.

1. *What form of government do you see working for Pownal. Circle your preference.*

- a. Move from three to five Select Persons
- b. Town Manager / Select Board
- c. Stay the same and re-evaluate every ten years
- d. Other: _____

2. *Town Meeting is held on a Monday evening in June. Would you prefer to see Town Meeting held on a Saturday?*

- yes no no opinion

Other: _____

3. *Currently our municipal offices are open Mondays (8:30 – 6:30), Tuesdays through Thursdays (8:30 – 4:30), and closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.*

- a. Are you satisfied with the office hours?
 - yes no no opinion

- b. Would like to see municipal office hours increased?
yes no no opinion
- c. Would like to see municipal office hours decreased?
yes no no opinion
- d. Would like to see municipal office hours include some weekend hours?
yes no no opinion
- e. Would you be in favor of limiting municipal office hours and doing business through kiosk or on-line services?
yes no no opinion

Other: _____

4. *Pownal has been divided into two districts giving us two State Representatives. Would you like to see Pownal go back to having only one representative?*
yes no no opinion

5. *In what way are you involved in Town Government?*
- I attend the annual Town Meeting
 - I attend Selectmen or other Committee/Board meetings
 - I am an active participant in Town Government either in committees or Board.
 - I do not participate in any aspects of Town Government.

6. *What outreach might increase your participation?* _____

7. Additional comments regarding our Town Government: _____

B. TOWN SERVICES & FACILITIES

1. Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
Pay-per-bag and recycled items are picked up curbside weekly. The Town sponsors "Pownal Pride Day" in the spring where residents volunteer to clean-up roadsides and can also bring metal items to Town Hall. For a non-resident annual fee, residents of Pownal may also use the Freeport Transfer Station.

a. *Are you satisfied with our current solid waste services?*

yes no no opinion

b. *Should we expand our current solid waste program? Please comment.*

yes no no opinion

c. *Would you like the Town to offer “fall clean-up” curbside services?*

yes no no opinion

Additional comments regarding solid waste: _____

2. Infrastructure/Public Works

Our Public Works Department consists of four employees; one Road Commissioner with three department employees. The department is housed in two buildings located behind Mallett Hall, with trucks and equipment parked outside. The Town has approximately 45 miles of public paved and unpaved roads.

1. *The Needs Assessment Committee recommended the Public Works Buildings be renovated. Do you agree that the Town of Pownal should pursue this recommendation?*

agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

2. *Pownal’s roads add to our rural character. Many of these roads were built as seasonal thruways, not built with a structure that supports the year-round uses of today. Negative environmental impacts can occur as run-off enters the streams and brooks.*

The Town should develop and implement a maintenance plan to update/maintain these roads in the most cost effective and environmentally safe manner?

agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

Additional comments regarding infrastructure: _____

3. Public Safety

The Pownal Fire and Rescue currently has 19 members who work out of two stations, one in Pownal Center and the other in North Pownal. Neither station meets current safety standards or are ADA compliant. Storage and apparatus parking are inadequate. The North Pownal station has no running water or bathroom facilities.

- a. *The 2010 Pownal Needs Assessment Study recommended a new facility for Pownal's Fire and Rescue Department. Do you agree the Town should pursue this recommendation?*
strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree no opinion

- b. *There are times when a firefighter/EMT are not available in Town to provide services. Would you support hiring a per diem Firefighter/EMT to provide services to the Town when needed?*
strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree no opinion

- c. *Are there any additional services the Fire Department could provide?* _____

4. Police Protection

Police protection for Pownal is currently provided by the Cumberland County Sheriff's office and the Maine State Police.

- a. *I am satisfied with the level of service provided by the Cumberland County and State police department?*
somewhat satisfied satisfied dissatisfied no opinion

- b. *The Town of Pownal should investigate options for increased police coverage/protection?*
somewhat agree agree strongly agree no opinion

- c. *I support increased enforcement of speed limits in Pownal?*
yes no no opinion

Comments regarding police protection: _____

5. Additional Services and Facilities

- a. *What other services would you like to see offered in Pownal?*

D. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Pownal Elementary School is a member of RSU5, which includes the towns of Freeport, Pownal and Durham. In 2018/19, RSU5 schools served 1,993 students in grades PreK through grade 12 and expects 2009 to be enrolled in 2019/2020. The district operates six schools: PreK-5 in Pownal, Prek-8 in Durham, PreK – 8 and 9-12 in Freeport. In 2018/2019, 61.45% of Pownal property taxes were designated to go to RSU5.

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following:

1. PES (Pownal Elementary School) is a vital asset to our community.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

2. The Town should continue to offer prekindergarten through grade 5 at PES.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

3. Consolidation with RSU5 has been beneficial to our Town and students.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

4. If it is fiscally responsible, the Town should explore withdrawing from RSU5.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

5. The Town should have more control and a bigger voice in our students' education.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

6. Pownal High School students should have the option of going to the public high school of their choice.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

7. The RSU5 communicates its budget process adequately to Pownal residents.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

Additional comments: _____

E. COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1. The Town's adult education needs are met through Freeport Community Education programs.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

2. The Town needs an active Recreation Department.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

3. The Town should expand its youth recreation programs.

strongly Agree agree undecided disagree strongly disagree

Additional comments: _____

F. HOUSING / GROWTH

1. In 2018, we had 21 new home building permits issued in Pownal; 8 in 2017; and 9 in 2016. Do you feel this growth rate should (choose one):

stay the same increase decrease no opinion

2. Do you feel the Town of Pownal should limit new home building permits?

yes no not sure

3. Should the Town research/investigate possibilities for the following?

a. Affordable housing

yes no no opinion

b. Retirement housing / Assisted Living

yes no no opinion

c. Multi-family unit housing

yes no no opinion

d. Mobile home parks

yes no no opinion

e. Single lots for mobile homes

yes no no opinion

f. Smaller lots for single homes

yes no no opinion

g. Other: _____

4. Should the Town encourage higher density development such as cluster housing with smaller house lots and the preservation of common open space?

yes no no opinion

5. Should the Town allow tiny houses, yurts and/or other non-standard housing if they meet Town building code and zoning ordinances?

yes no no opinion

Additional comments: _____

G. LAND USE

1. Should the Town encourage the following?

a. Preservation of farms/orchards, vineyards

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

- b. *Tourism*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- c. *Light industrial manufacturing uses*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- d. *Motels/hotels*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- e. *Convenience stores*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- f. *Professional offices*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- i. *Development/vision of a plan for a town center?*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- j. *Home Occupations*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion
- k. *Airbnb/VRBO and other in-home lodging*
somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

Additional comments: _____

2. *What should the Town's policy be toward the following types of commercial development?*

- a. *Retails sales & service (5000 sq. ft. or more)*
allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- b. *Fast food with drive-throughs*
allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- c. *Sit down restaurants/ diners*
allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- d. *Small shopping center*
allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- e. *Business Park*
allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion

- f. *Campgrounds/Glamping*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- g. *Recreation/Wellness Center*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- h. *Child Care /Elder Care Centers*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- i. *Farming/commercial gardening/nurseries*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- j. *Wholesale businesses*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- k. *Light manufacturing*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- l. *Professional Services*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- m. *Gas station*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- n. *Microbreweries/distilleries*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- o. *Marijuana agriculture-growing*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion
- p. *Marijuana manufacturing/ dispensary*
 allow anywhere confine to specific areas discourage no opinion

Additional comments: _____

3. *Recognizing that additional town services typically mean increasing taxes, to what degree (if any) do you support town investment in each of the following:*

NEXT MEETING STARTS HERE

- a. *Economic/infrastructure investment in village area*
 somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

b. *Farmland*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

c. *Scenic views/roadways*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

d. *Wildlife habitat*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

e. *Groundwater protection*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

f. *Outdoor recreation areas/trails*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

g. *Public access to open space*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

h. *Historic sites*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

i. *Chandler Brook and other surface water resources*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

j. *Safe access/off-road parking for Town-owned properties*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

Additional comments: _____

4. *Indicate your level of support for the role Pownal should play in managing land use?*

a. *Tightening zoning codes and regulations*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

b. *Limit urban sprawl*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

c. *Regulate through existing codes*

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

d. Purchase land development rights

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

e. Provide incentives to landowners to permit development on rural land

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

f. Provide incentives to landowners to keep land undeveloped.

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

g. Property tax reductions for placing conservation easements on open space

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

h. Develop a tax policy that supports residents keeping large tracks of land.

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

i. Town purchase of conservation easements on open space if that results in tax savings for Pownal residents

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

j. Strengthening Town regulations for wetlands on private lands

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

k. Strengthening Town regulations for wildlife habitat protection on private lands

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

l. Continued management of Town-owned forests as a renewable resource and harvesting of wood on a sustained yield basis.

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

m. Coordinating with abutting towns to protect habitat and scenic resources on a regional scale.

somewhat support support strongly support do not support no opinion

Additional comments:_____

H. RURAL CHARACTER / RECREATION / OPEN SPACE

Pownal's rural character is in large part due to our abundance of undeveloped land, open farmland, scenic vistas, country roads, woodland and natural streams. Much of our open space is protected by the State (Bradbury Mountain State Park), the Town, and private/public easements (Royal River Conservation Trust). Please indicate your support for the following:

1. *Should we continue to support and encourage preservation of open space, farmlands, and recreational spaces?*

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

2. *Should we use tax dollars or tax reductions to preserve open space through Town-owned easements?*

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

3. *Should we improve access and increase recreational opportunities (hiking, bike trails, snowmobile trails, fishing, etc.) to these and other Town-owned properties including continued collaboration with Bradbury Mountain State Park and Royal River Conservation Trust?*

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

4. *Do you support creation of a municipal recreation department to enhance recreational opportunities (adult education, summer day camp, after school activities, creation/management of parks/hiking/biking trails)?*

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

Additional comments: _____

I. HISTORIC SITES

1. *Pownal has a number of historic resources (Mallett Hall, one-room school houses, hearse house, and some mill sites). Should these important structures/ resources be protected for historic preservation by Town ordinances?*

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

Additional comments: _____

J. NATURAL RESOURCES ~ WATER/WETLANDS/FORESTS

Pownal has several large aquifers that supply our wells, as well as natural resources such as brook trout streams, wildlife habitat, and soils suitable for farming. Please indicate your support of the following:

1. Our aquifers are currently protected by regulations such as shoreland zoning. However increased development could adversely impact the quality and quantity of our water. Would you favor additional review to protect the future of our aquifers?

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

2. Do you feel our natural resources (wildlife habitat, wetlands, and streams) are sufficiently protected by federal/state regulations and local ordinances?

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

3. Chandler Brook, East Branch, Thoits, and other streams have been adversely affected by practices such road sanding, salting and ditching. Do you feel we should restore our stream water quality and habitat by improving our practices such as sand removal and better erosion control?

somewhat agree agree strongly agree disagree no opinion

4. Would you support a commercial water extraction ordinance?

support strongly support do not support no opinion

5. Please list any other activities that might be adversely affecting our streams and brooks:

6. Pownal owns approximately XXX parcels of land. Although the Town has an integrated forest management plan for some of these parcels, the lack of land surveys is preventing implementation of this plan. Do you support the use of Town funds to get Town lands surveyed?

Somewhat agree Agree Strongly Agree Disagree No opinion

Additional comments: _____
