

Meeting of the Economic Development Committee
Town of Pownal
February 12, 2020, 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Shannon McClenithan, Matt Barlin, Gerol Petruzella, John Bushee

7:03 PM. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shannon McClenithan

7:04 PM. Gerol Petruzella motions to accept old minutes, second by Matt Barlin. Unanimous approval

7:05 PM. Shannon proposes adding “Banking in Pownal” to Agenda.

7:07 PM. Gerol Petruzella motions to accept Amended Agenda with changes to discuss community foundation, second by Matt Barlin. Unanimous approval

7:10 PM. No Public Comment

7:11 PM Action Item: Education promotion, getting information detailing school performance needs Select Board approval for addition to town website. Also may have to go through School Board. To be followed by Matt Barlin

Action Item: Permitting. Discussion of updating forms. Mike Gardner present and willing to improve.

Action Item: School Education Data Presentation by Barlin, nothing new.

7:18 PM. Old Business: Economic Development Survey. Previous survey of Business Needs provided by Gerol.

Old Business: Job Fair. Ways to improve attendance. Transportation suggestion from Gardner. Market to high school because young people looking for training suggestion from Barlin. Job hunters still using companies they heard were present, from Barlin. Presenters willing to come back, networking between presenters beneficial from Shannon. Mack Molding from Jim Winchester. Sign up sheet and do you need a ride, from Bushee. WUPE Radio effective advertisement by Ron Dwyer. Time of year, day of week discussion.

7:30PM. Discussion of Businesses in Pownal: Advantages of doing business in Pownal. How to promote businesses in Pownal. Pownal post office preferred over Williamstown, creates potential shopper traffic.

Update survey and distribute (action item for Gerol)

Chalkboard of suggestions at local businesses.

Potential café going in.

Survey how to get distributed? Mail, school, town meeting, election, survey monkey

7:50PM. Banking in Pownal. \$40 million in anticipated deposits necessary for a new bank to build.

7:55PM. New Business: Getting Pownal on the Map. By Jim Winchester. Hill Country Observer, 7 advertisers needed to get on the Map Destination: . Reach out to businesses, get them the information. Build it together (businesses work together, EDC to assist).

8:05PM. New Business: SEVEDS Project Submission. By Shannon. Town Hall could be submitted as a project to SeVEDS. Need permission from Select Board to present as a project to be funded through SeVEDs. They choose 12 projects to support.

8:15PM. New Business: Spark grant Vermont Community Foundation. By Shannon.

8:17PM. New Business: Affordable Housing/Senior Housing. Existing Conditions are below satisfactory. If affordable senior housing were available, seniors would be able to continue living in Pownal, would create jobs in caring for seniors.

8:37PM. New Business: Website. Discover Pownal offered to EDC to take over management of website.

Threshold to be listed: Registered business in Pownal.

Chamber of commerce.

Put on survey: Do you have a business?, would you like to listed?

Currently an external link on the town website.

Need list of policies.

Need annual budget of costs.

Motion to accept website, pending development of policies, by Matt Barlin. Seconded by Gerol.

Discussion: Does the select board need approval first?

Develop policies first and present before the board. Motion withdrawn.

8:37PM. New Business: AARP Community Challenge. Approach select board to go for grant.

New Action Item Recap:

Matt to research getting school promotion on the website.

Gerol to work on the survey. Get a digital version and a link. Get 'would you be willing to pay for advertising'.

John to ask Select Board permission to select board for SevEDS grant.

8:55PM Adjourn. Gerol motions for adjournment, John seconds, all in favor.