

Financial Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, November 22, 2021, 7pm

Members Present; Ben Astbury; FPAC Co-Chair, Sedgwick Selectboard, Sally Mills; FPAC Co-Chair, Chair of GSA Board, Matt Freedman; Brooksville School Board, James Goodman; Penobscot School Board, Jerry Markley; Chair, Penobscot School Board, Kathleen Kazmierczak; Brooklin School Board, Stacia Nevin; Brooklin Select Board, Jim Dow, Blue Hill Select Board, Scott Miller, Blue Hill Select Board, Ben Wooten, Blue Hill Consolidated School Board, Betsy Armstrong; Chair; Surry Selectboard, Jim Crawford; Chair of GSA Finance Committee, Deb Ludlow; GSA Trustee, Seth Brown; GSA CFO, Liffey Thorpe, GSA Communications, Jeffrey Roth; Penobscot Bay Press, Sean Dooley; member of the public

Co-Chair Ben Astbury opened the meeting at 7:00

Ben A. reminded everyone that the GSA Board has met to discuss the Budget Review Committee (BRC) proposed by Jim Goodman from Penobscot. He asked Sally M. to discuss the board reaction to the proposal. Sally related that the board had a really good discussion and a positive reaction to the idea of BRC.

Ben W. felt that the BRC should be involved earlier in the process, not just review the finished product. Kathleen K. responded that GSA would present a draft, not a finished product, which the BRC would review and make suggestions. Jim G. commented that GSA has to start somewhere. Year one, the Academy will make a draft. This will be a working document. There will be a lot of discussion that will allow GSA to understand the towns priorities and the towns to understand where GSA is coming from. Betsy A. thought that part of the decision making would include conversations at town meetings.

The group began to discuss the process going forward, committee membership, meeting dates, number of meetings etc. The group discussed some ideas; that a three-year membership would be ideal for continuity, that a staggered approach should be adopted so that there will always be seasoned members and newer committee members. It was thought that more meetings at the outset would allow us to share our values with one another. Perhaps departments could give a quick 10-minute presentation as the committee begins to educate itself.

Jim C. said it's hard to determine how many meetings right now, but he envisions beginning in May to allow BRC to be involved early in the process and meeting once a month perhaps 3 or 4 times. The committee would discuss among other things; salaries, enrollment, the MAT. There could be more meetings if necessary.

Ben A said the next step is to take the proposed BRC Committee to the towns and see how they want to move forward. Each town can have its' own process for choosing a committee member. Several FPAC members felt it would be advantageous to have BRC committee members who were not already a selectperson or school board member, so that they would have the time to devote to the BRC. Jerry M. suggested the towns take the next two months to decide on a process of committee membership selection.

Jim G. thought the group should have a mission statement. A draft mission could be created that would be further refined by the newly created 8 member BRC as they begin the work.

Jim G. and Jerry M. will put together a list of towns with a schedule of staggered membership. Ben A. and Jim Goodman will work together on a draft mission statement for the towns and GSA to approve. Ben A. will reach out to Orland to see if they would like to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm

The next FPAC meeting will be held sometime in January, TBD.

Respectfully Submitted

Deborah Ludlow, GSA Trustee