

October 19, 2015 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

- We received several comments about residents being appreciative of how we spend money, meaning we do a lot for not much money. Likewise, we received kudos for holding the neighborhood meetings last year, and following up with them this year. People appreciated the follow through and the fact that they were heard. We were told to keep up the good work on taxes.
- We heard that Quality of Life issues should not be left off of the Board's priority list, to which I replied that that was part of the balance goal the Board established.
- We heard that the Town needs a community center, and that with the planned replacement of Mt. Ararat, we should look into the possibilities of acquiring the existing gym facility for activity space and classroom space.
- We heard that the work on Green St. seems to have achieved its goal of slowing people down, and that we should consider it in other locations around town.
- We heard support for our Capital Improvement Plan, but were warned about just focusing on roads and equipment. The CIP should also include utilities (underground as well as internet) and stormwater quantity (Bay Park).
- Several suggestions were made to entice people to public meetings – ice cream social, food, , etc. were at the top of the list.
- We heard that some people don't come to Town Meeting because they feel the meeting is stacked, and the outcome pre-ordained. The library and Town Office Complex were cited as examples.
- It was suggested, and contradicted, that the Memorial Day Parade would be a good venue to contact people with information.
- We received a Thank You for the rumble strip project on Rt. 196.
- It was suggested that when people express cynicism about town government, the best response is to combat that directly and to impress upon people that citizens can and do make a difference.
- It was suggested that the Neighborhood Meeting Summary document include contact information for outside agencies, including individual names, not just referring to another agency.
- It was suggested that the Town have a standard policy for charging for copies, and that all people should pay for copies.

- It was suggested that we check with Orono and Old Town about grants that they got to extend broadband.
- We heard that the plantings at Town Hall, not just flower beds, were very nice and were kept up well. The new path and plantings were also complimented.
- We heard that Broadband was very important.
- One resident commented that of the list of priorities the Board established, the top item would be speed/traffic and the second item would be the environment.