

Town of Brooklyn
Town Forum Suggestions
January 30, 2024
Brooklyn Middle School Gymnasium & Zoom

Mr. Tanner welcomed everyone to the Town Forum and mentioned he used to have forums quarterly is and considering reinstating that practice.

Jackie Igliozi, 8 Woodward Road, wants the town to focus on a big picture, long term plan with a common goal that is communicated to the business owners, residents and town officials and that P&Z will help support. This will promote confidence and show vision. Mr. Tanner responded that while he agrees, flexibility is necessary as well. We do have a plan for a long-term capital committee.

Galliehue Blevins, 58 Juniper Way, would like to see the town move to a Town Manager style government. Brooklyn is not so small a town anymore with busy Route 6. Elected officials don't have qualifications like hired employees do and would be more professionally managed. The town is a business with checks and balances and accountability. Look at a Town Council even it means removing the job of First Selectman. Jackie Igliozi asked what the difference between a Selectman and a Town Manager is. Mr. Tanner recommended looking at what Chester, CT just did with their government transition.

Mr. Tanner commented that he knows with all of the rain we got last year that there are issues with roads and runoff and wants the residents to know the Highway department has been very busy trying to remedy that.

Mike Snyder wanted to add to Jackie and Galliehue's statements by saying we should invest in our town future and have an in-depth study of the town with a qualified consultant.

Carrie Juhasz, 38 Day Street, would like to echo what others have said and is happy about the long-term capital committee. Check on other studies the town has already done but not implemented. We could spend less on new studies if we look at the ones we have. A Town Manager is a better idea for continuity and a Town Planner is needed for their expertise. Why is there such high employee turnover? Maybe exit interviews are a good idea to find out if it's pay, benefits, dissatisfaction? Background checks should be done for our First Responders, money shouldn't be a deterrent. How did the WPCA miss that the bills would be doubled and what was the cause? Was there a forensic accounting done to figure out why this happened? FOIA training should be done for all employees. The increase should've been incremental. Jackie Igliozi and Mike Snyder suggested billing quarterly. Carrie would like all town meetings to be hybrid.

Kate Bisson, 391 Pomfret Road, reminded everyone that budget season is here and to keep an eye on agendas and minutes so when the budget is presented to the Town there are no surprises.

Shelley Cates, 647 Allen Hill Road, showed everyone how to sign up to get notifications for anything posted on the website.

Matt Noren, 21 Church Street, asked why the Town Meeting wasn't hybrid and suggested having regular Town Meetings. He asked why we can't vote at a forum.

Carrie Barna, 376 Stetson Road, asked that the website be kept up to date regularly with new Board and Commission members.

Jana Aubin, 169 Barrett Hill Road, commented that she'd like to be more involved but doesn't know how to or where to learn.

Diane Wimmer, 555 Wauregan Road, commented that there has been training on how government works in the past and suggested that at another Town Forum maybe we could have someone from FOI, the Town Attorney, and someone to educate on government available.