

Town Hall Listening Sessions

What are Town Hall Listening Session?

In an effort to spend more time learning and listening and learning about a topic, we have developed a series of sessions that allow residents, staff, and elected officials to learn and listen to each other.

How will they work?

While each Listening Session may have different goals and agendas, they will each generally follow the same format. We'll set some ground rules for the evening facilitated by our volunteer facilitator, Chuck Wooster. We'll hear some presentations from staff on the past, current, and future work plans, goals, and challenges. Then together we'll all work to listen to each other's experiences, concerns, and hopes. What will not happen during a Listening Session is any policy or funding decisions. Our facilitator will keep us on track with that!

When are they?

We're planning on four Listening Sessions in 2021. They'll start at 6pm and end at 9pm. As of May 1, we anticipate that the June 1st Listening Session will likely still be remote. We'll keep you posted.

Date	Topic
June 1, 2021	Downtown Parking
July 13, 2021	Capital Improvement Projects for FY23 Budget Cycle
September 7, 2021	Fire, Medical, Police, Dispatch, Wellness
November 2, 2021	Solid Waste

How can I prepare?

While we don't want anyone to feel like they must prepare to participate, we will be providing an agenda packet, just like a regular Selectboard meeting. There you will find documents that staff have prepared either specifically for this meeting, or in the past, to help inform the discussion. Depending on the topic you might also see excerpts from legislative documents that can help all of us understand what is, or is not, possible due to local, state, or federal regulations.

What's going to happen in 2022?

Hartford has a lot of important things to discuss! As this is part of a pilot project, we're going to reflect on the first three meetings before setting the schedule and topics for 2022. Have an idea for a topic? You can email the Town Manager, Tracy Yarlott-Davis, at tyarlott-davis@hartford-vt.org