

Q.# 44 44. What can the Town do to promote more active participation by you or other residents in the Town's affairs?

Total Responses: 70

Respondee

Response

- 1 That's a crucial question.
- 3 Be more creative towards becoming the best SWH can be - in transportation, use of resources and consumption.
- 4 Be more relevant
- 5 I know everyone is busy in summer for meetings; info sent to residents on efforts to save money instead of ways to spend it would be encouraging .
- 7 Summer resident survey or input via website prior to the meeting.
- 8 Encourage citizens to read post office info - provide more info elsewhere (important).
- 9 This survey is a great start. Maybe individual Town Hall meetings on specific issues such as sidewalks, recycling, growth, etc. so that those with (strong) opinions one way or the other might be inclined to share their opinions and generate public discussion.
- 14 Find ways to make summer residents feel like the elected and appointed officials want and respect their input(as much as their taxes).
- 16 Actually come out and say that we have a say where our taxes go.
- 17 Better communication, more transparency in your business dealings & meetings, no more "good ol' boy/girl" monopoly.
- 18 Have the meetings in the million \$ fire station not cramped into the town office.
- 19 Send info out earlier; communicate more concisely; ask for attendance-call to action. Don't be so passive.
- 24 Unsure
- 25 We need a town planner that can help citizens plan and understand results of decisions.
- 26 Hold annual meetings in July/August
- 27 Hold town meeting during July/August
- 30 Educate the residents as to the importance of civic responsibility; have more meeting/hours conducive to attendance. The dinner hour is not conducive to participation.
- 31 Allow more public input at meetings. Too many are not allowing the public to speak.
- 35 Don't allow "anyone" to sit on the board; its bad for progress.
- 36 Listen
- 39 Put questionnaires online maybe
- 42 Quit spending my money!
- 46 I would get more involved if there were steps taken to reduce our carbon footprint, improve water quality and expand recycling program
- 47 Good question! In over-booked lives, leaves little time.
- 48 Broadcast meetings on TV
- 51 Need increased info about decisions & processes to taxpayers
- 53 Give property owners who pay real estate taxes a vote.
- 54 Better meeting space
- 58 Send out info as to when mtgs are held and agendas.
- 60 One has to desire & participate and be constructive; town must be open about meetings without hidden agendas, etc. Town needs to seek participation such as this questionnaire.
- 61 E-mail notifications/reminders would be very helpful
- 68 Listen
- 69 Maintain good newspaper coverage. Televisе selectmen meetings.
- 74 Have meetings in the summer.

- 76 You need to watch last year's planning board. They were having meetings without the knowledge of the owners of the land.
- 78 Come up to 2009; this is not the 50's anymore.
- 80 Do a better job of publicizing meetings.
- 83 Do not know.
- 90 I commend those who spend countless hours serving the town
- 92 Put on update on cable access channel.
- 94 If anyone wants to attend they will; you cannot make a person attend if they are not in the mood.
- 97 Make the issues more visible in the news media.
- 98 Continued association with the SWH library to publicize issues, perhaps give further information about issues through forums and discussion and to encourage more active participation. The library reaches so many people - as do the schools.
- 99 I am a SWH firefighter-I attended 2 mtgs a month-I am a board member of the SWH fire association; I serve our community in many ways by volunteering my time
- 102 Listen
- 103 Better notification of the agenda
- 108 Enforce laws and ordinances; have a certificate of occupancy for new construction.
- 110 Maybe have signup sheet at town meeting or at the polls.
- 112 Broadcast meetings on the public access TV channel.
- 115 On-line - reaching out as this survey has done.
- 116 Newsletters to promote discussion-not just prior to the vote; offer newsletter free at shops to cut down on mailing costs
- 120 Town office open till 7:30-8:00 one day per month
- 122 town newspaper
- 124 larger notices and more
- 125 Make me feel that the Board of Selectmen is not a closed mind.
- 127 Be more (concerns) to citizens' input
- 128 This always stumps me.
- 130 Open meetings where the officers are in the audience and not in control
- 131 Insist on civil behavior in meetings
- 136 Publish the agendas of upcoming meetings on TV
- 140 Lower taxes, promote business and streamline inefficiencies in govt
- 141 Implement consensus recommendations quickly and completely
- 142 Improve TV communication (Channel 7) and have more voter info events.
- 144 Newsletter
- 145 public interface where the rubber meets the road...beyond the office
- 147 Give all the residents a say in running the community
- 148 Use 'summer' people for resources(knowledge, contacts, business expertise, etc).
- 149 The most recent newsletter was the first one that, for me, contained relevant information and got me fired up to participate more, though I doubt my own knowledge and skills to serve on town committees. Maybe I'll learn as I go along.
- 152 I'd have more faith in various boards if they: made up their minds in 1 or 2 meetings; and stuck with their decisions.
- 153 Less galleries, more sidewalks and bicycle paths