



January 2021 Town Hall Meeting

The purpose of this Town Hall meeting is to introduce candidates who are running for the 2021-22 Board of Directors, to present the content of the 2021 Budget, and to share the general format of how we will be conducting the Annual Meeting on February 28th. If time permits, there will be time toward the end of the meeting to invite voicing concerns and questions. All members and friends are urged to attend and participate. It is believed that as we truly hear each other and value our diversity of opinions, we will grow in strength and succeed in our collective common goals and endeavors.

After starting with prayer, we will collectively agree to Town Hall practices to guide communications and behaviors during the meeting. Agreement to all guidelines will be sealed by each person affirming their agreement to participate with a “yes.” (These are adapted from Martha Creek’s Comm-Unity Agreements.)

1. The following are non-negotiable basic guidelines:
 - a) **I will use only use “I” statements to state my beliefs, opinions, and/or feelings**
 - b) **I acknowledge that what a person is saying is true to them, even if it not true for me**
 - c) **I will not share third hand information or feelings, no hear-say**
 - d) **I will not speak while another is speaking**
 - e) **I will not participate in cross-talk, while another is speaking**
 - f) **I understand that the facilitator may reframe or ask for a reframe of a statement**
 - g) **I understand the facilitator may call for a time of silence at any time**
 - h) **My “yes” is affirmation of agreement and becomes a benchmark of my integrity**
 - i) **A time limit on each speaker may be imposed**
 - j) **No one will speak a second time until all who want to speak have had an opportunity to speak**
2. On Zoom, each person who wishes to speak must use the Zoom function to raise their hand.
3. The person who is speaking has “the floor.” He or she may ask questions of any individual present. The person who has “the floor” may address the Town Hall meeting in the form of personal sharing or dialog.
4. No one may talk about an individual who is not present. No one may present third-party information or opinion. No speaker may represent another individual or group. It is inappropriate to use information from confidential sources or to indicate that such information exists.
5. Even if no formal time limit is imposed on speakers, then in the spirit of fairness to all who wish to speak, everyone is requested to respect the right of others to share. Therefore, a three minute signal will be given to all speakers.
6. Everyone is urged to keep the focus of the sharing or discussion on substantive issues, relationships, or descriptions of what they noticed/observed in themselves. There shall be no name-calling, mindreading (attributing evil motives), guilt-making (“look how you’ve made me feel”), rejecting or discrediting of another person.
7. It is important to share your feelings and know you have been heard. You may request that the facilitator re-state your thoughts, to ensure that you have been heard correctly.
8. A Town Hall meeting is not a membership meeting. No business may be voted upon.
9. The duration of the Town Hall meeting shall be 60 minutes.