

Listening Post

June 24, 2026. 6:00-7:05

Attendees:

Suzanne Swope (Chair)

Paul Riordan

Marty Finn

Erin Barcellos

Tom Derderian

John Morgan

Joe Ramano

Summary

This was the final Listening Post meeting for this season, held on June 24th to discuss the town's newly approved budget and community engagement issues. The participants focused extensively on communication challenges between town government and residents, with participants expressing concerns about limited transparency and inadequate information sharing through traditional methods like the newspaper and WCAT. Key discussion points included the need for a centralized transparency portal, better meeting minutes across all committees, mandatory Zoom recording of all meetings, and improved reporting structures from committee chairs to the town council. The group also discussed strategies to increase community engagement, including welcome initiatives for new residents, better outreach to renters, and creating more welcoming town council meeting environments. Additionally, the conversation touched on grant opportunities and transparency around existing grants, with participants noting that while the town does receive grants, there's limited public knowledge about them. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about upcoming tree planting on Revere Street, where participants debated optimal locations for new trees given environmental constraints.