

Synthesis of 5 “Meet the New Town Manager” Meetings
June 30, 2022

Below is a synthesis of the themes of the 5 Hardwick neighborhood gatherings hosted by the town and Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor in June, 2022. A total of 211 people attended these events. The following is a composite of on-site detailed documentation and written feedback on the cards provided (54).

Favorite Places:

- Post office - meet people you don't know
- Brochu's Citgo (Opie)
- Pavilion
- Rail Trail
- Hazen Trail (3)
- Co-op
- Schools (connection to the community)
- CAE
- Community gardens
- Atkins Field:
 - ◆ Farmer's Market
 - ◆ Farmer's Market
 - ◆ Pump Track
- Swinging bridge
- Whistle
- Galaxy
- Coffee Shop (Front Seat)
- Downtown park to sit in
- Library
- Restorative justice
- Thrift stores
- Historical Society
- The Hardwick Town House
- The Open Space
- Baseball field
- Access to creemees
- Food Pantry

What is good about Hardwick:

THEME	QUOTES
Sense of community	<p>Many waves over time but always community by your side to celebrate and get through hard times</p> <p>Knowing neighbors</p> <p>Small community feel</p> <p>If you are gonna make relationships and build a future, this is a good place</p> <p>The sense of community here is visible, real, tangible, something I've always recognized.</p> <p>Hardwick as a whole doesn't know anyone anymore - everyone has moved away. But when I see people I say hi and people say hi back.</p> <p>People wave to you!!</p> <p>The beauty, the people, the options for stores, the involved community.</p> <p>Grassroots movements to improve community, rural location with strong heritage of food/agriculture</p>
Physical beauty	<p>The beautiful NEK hills, streams and forests.</p> <p>Diversity of landscape</p>
Acceptance of community of differences	<p>You can be who you are and being a weird person, I really appreciates that.</p> <p>How every group is inclusive - the hippie or the preppie doesn't have its own group - you just are who you are.</p> <p>Participant feels safe with her children - biracial children, wants them to feel safe.</p> <p>More accepting of different people than it used to be.</p>

Safety	Ride your bike and not worry about it Your hood is solid and people watch out for each other.
Access to the basic necessities	The necessities are here - grocery, bank, medical services, rescue - a lot of surrounding towns don't have that.
Volunteer Experience	Being a volunteer makes a huge difference!

Desired change/future direction:

THEME	QUOTES	SOLUTIONS
Affordability	<p>Cost of living too high</p> <p>Can preclude young people coming here.</p> <p>In top 5% of tax rates in the NEK</p> <p>Concerned about gentrification. Rents & housing costs are way up.</p> <p>I might have trouble staying here because the rents are jacked up.</p> <p>Worried about the coming winter and cost of fuel.</p> <p>Community based support needed - we can offer to paint someone's house - help each other.</p> <p>We need to be aware that there is a huge amount of food insecurity.</p>	<p>Police department major expenditure. In order to reduce scope/staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change job responsibilities, ● mobilizing mental health support ● Increase restorative justice <p>Consider local fuel assistance fund</p> <p>Increased neighborhood support to help people without incurring large costs.</p> <p>Encourage construction of accessory buildings/in-law accommodations to increase housing options.</p> <p>More senior/affordable housing.</p>
Increase mental health services	<p>Many are isolated and struggling to integrate into the community.</p>	<p>More outreach</p> <p>Increase resources like efforts in partnership with</p>

	<p>We are on the edge of 4 counties - an island.</p>	<p>police dept. - develop "Community mental health" capacity</p> <p>Increase/strengthen restorative justice systems</p> <p>Town social service officer</p>
<p>Encourage accessing resources/participating in events</p>	<p>Instead of focusing on aesthetics, let's focus on people leading a healthy life.</p>	<p>Enhanced communication system regarding resources/events.</p>
<p>Options for trash handling</p>	<p>Many people are burning their trash and can't afford to bring it to trash processing centers</p> <p>Kiwanis efforts to own a stretch of roads has been effective - taking ownership works.</p>	<p>Hire Heath Officer</p> <p>Solid waste "Bulky" trash day (like Craftsbury just had)</p> <p>Voucher system</p> <p>Composting pods (insure that they are accessible & affordable). Could we make them free?</p> <p>Create marketing campaign to promote awareness/shift behaviors</p> <p>Increase efforts to create ownership of sections of town</p> <p>Address junk car issue (https://careasy.org/home) - donation back to local non-profit</p>
<p>Increase options for youth</p>	<p>If youth were involved in the community in more active ways, perhaps the level of vandalism would decrease.</p> <p>Have kids participate in building a skate park so they learn new skills and are invested in it.</p> <p>Reinvent & invest in the schools - if we want young people to stay or come back, we need more community</p>	<p>Build a skate park</p> <p>Enhance the pump track</p> <p>Engage in cleaning up parts of the town</p> <p>Create a teen center</p> <p>More youth programming (especially for younger children - now for 3rd grade and up)</p>

	engagement in the schools.	
Increase community gathering opportunities	<p>Re: Gazette Community center development: "We do not want to separate out those who need services from those who do not - but rather affirm a whole community...building relationships across boundaries."</p> <p>"Need more activities & events that bring ALL members of the community together."</p>	<p>More of the neighborhood gatherings like this (NtN)</p> <p>-Modern Times Theater performances</p> <p>Support the Gazette Building use as a community cultural center</p> <p>Bring back spring festival</p> <p>Bring back First Fridays (or Tuesday Night Live - Johnson model)</p> <p>Community Center</p> <p>Shut down a street and have food trucks (along with event) on a regular basis</p> <p>More Atkins/family friendly activities (eg dancing)</p> <p>Basketball court options for community.</p>
Improve infrastructure/ physical space and esthetics		<p>Replace swinging bridge (underway)</p> <p>Create access to river/green space downtown (across from swinging bridge)</p> <p>Wastewater plant upgrades</p> <p>Install guardrails where needed.</p> <p>Roadside clearing in partnership with Woodbury</p> <p>More/better marked street crossings</p> <p>Fix the fountain</p>

		<p>Configuration of sidewalks to improve flow/access</p> <p>Assess streetlight efficacy</p> <p>Utilize new Downtown Planner to secure needed Resource</p> <p>Create business collaborative to help address downtown needs (Morrisville model)</p> <p>Create additional parking</p> <p>Research alternative uses of urine as fertilizer</p> <p>Create bike lanes</p>
<p>Need for volunteers</p>	<p>If you want your taxes lowered, you need to volunteer.</p>	<p>Rescue Squad Coaches Town committees: Planning Commission Design/Review Board Equity Committee Conservation Committee Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor</p> <p>Hardwick Trails Committee</p>
<p>Economic Development</p>		<p>Complete Yellow Barn project</p> <p>Optimize LVRT increased downtown traffic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support amenities (e.g. bathroom/picnic areas option) for LVRT - • swinging bridge park as biking hub • Signage <p>Support library renovation</p> <p>Support businesses to fill vacant buildings (e.g. old</p>

		bank)
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Neighborhood Specific Concerns:

Downtown Hardwick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sidewalk configuration/flow ● Parking ● Cleaning drains ● Street lights
West/Bunker Hill Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Road maintenance during mud season
Mackville Pond Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Litter and roadside upkeep
East Hardwick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water system improvement ● Sidewalk replacement ● Alternative bike route from Walden to LVRT - avoiding having to go to Greensboro Bend ● Enforce speed limits