

Eric Wade Responses

Bridgewater Town Council Candidates Forum
hosted by South Shore Public Libraries
September 30, 2020

Questions submitted by the public; 6 drawn randomly for use during the recorded forum, all to be made available for comment to interested candidates for inclusion alongside forum video.

How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in our town?

By being accessible to people and keeping the public informed along with asking questions is how I plan to involve residents.

If you could change one thing in our zoning code, what would it be and why?

Overall, more flexibility, starting with reviewing the subdivision regulations. The regulations need

to be updated to meet the needs of our town today despite being originally written in 1977.

The

process before even a tentative plan can be reviewed needs to be easier for developers.

If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?

I will continue to offer feedback to the town through the surveys to the community along with serving on committees, one of which I am a part of is the Heritage advisory committee. This along with offering my hand to my councilors and community in any way possible.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the town any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

A one million dollar grant would go towards paying down long term debts to ensure the sustainability of our financial future, along with a portion going towards a community pool of money to fund mini-projects throughout the town for citizens to test their ideas.

Do you think housing affordability is an issue in our city? If yes, what do you plan on doing to improve housing affordability?

Affordable housing is an issue in our city. My experience along with others is unable to find suitable rental properties in particular. A popular practice is allowing new development to tap into space to encourage affordable housing. These are reflected in cities across Canada such as Montreal and Vancouver.

What's the one major issue you plan to address?

Developing our town into a destination. Taking ideas from other places from around the globe and adopting them in a way that suits Bridgewater. We can find solutions to everyday problems such as finding better places for waste bins, including and educating town residents in their concerns, and developing and promoting our local businesses through collaboration to create a strong and vibrant town. Projects being developed here that are already contributing to Bridgewater's growth like the wastewater infrastructure and new highway interchange that will aid us in seeing the town develop into its full potential