

SGA Town Hall addresses relationship between student, town residents

SGA held a Town Hall meeting Thursday night that featured Town of Elon Board of Alderman member Emily Sharpe and Assistant Town Manager Pam Graham. The Town Hall centered on the relationship between Elon University students and town residents and was moderated by Elon News Network politics editor Maggie Brown.

Both public officers expressed interest in students engaging with town officials and hearing their input on issues. Graham addressed student concern about being represented in town government, assuring students that they are a part of the Town of Elon as well.

“There’s always a student body and yes it’s a sizable proportion of our population so i certainly don’t think things are ignored,” said Graham.

Livestream of the April 25, 2019 Town Hall.

The public comment period of town meetings is just one way these officials want students to interact with the government of the Town of Elon to address the concerns that they have.

“Instead of signing a petition you could come and share anything on your mind,” Sharpe said in regards to the [petition](#) against the noise ordinance.

As the university continues to expand and the town develops further, Graham and Sharpe want the relationship between students and other residents to become closer. New businesses, cooperative spaces for all residents, and biking paths are just some of the ideas that were brought up at the Town Hall.

With the [shooting and burglary](#) that took place in the town of Elon on Wednesday morning, safety was one topic that students addressed in the Town Hall. Graham suggests communicating with police chief Kelly Blackwelder and the Town of Elon police department about safety concerns.

Junior Katherine Klinger, who brought up safety between students, other town residents and the surrounding population outside of Elon, found the Town Hall to be a productive meeting between students and town officials.

“I think the town of Elon representatives as I at least expected them to be, we’re very open, receptive, and definitely value the voices of the students,” Klinger said.

Klinger suggests that students address town officials with the concerns they have.

“Students have complaints so make them heard because these people were willing to listen.”
