

# TOWN OF BEAUFORT CITIZEN'S ACADEMY



“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL,  
COMMITTED, CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE  
ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”

— MARGARET MEAD

# Why a Citizen's Academy?

- To create Citizen Engagement in the Beaufort community.
- To develop capacity building within the Beaufort community.

**Community engagement** is the process of working collaboratively with community groups to address issues that impact the well-being of those groups.

**Capacity Building** can be defined as “activity which strengthens the knowledge, abilities, skills and behavior of individuals, while improving institutional structures and processes such that the organization can efficiently meet its mission and goals in a sustainable way.”



# What is a Citizen's Academy?

- A free program to educate residents about town government and the services provided.
- Provides citizens an inside look at daily operations.
- Provides education and skills necessary to serve on volunteer boards and committees.
- Involves citizens in order to strengthen our community.
- Provides an opportunity for staff to obtain feedback from citizens in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Develops community leaders
- Builds community relations
- Networking opportunities



# ABOUT THE ACADEMY

- Participants should not expect 4 weeks of lectures as classes require participation in discussion, activities and sessions rotating between Town facilities.
- Every session features a participatory portion to keep participants engaged and interested.
- In order to graduate, participants must attend at least 3 of the 4 sessions.
- Homework will include attending Board of Commissioners meetings, a volunteer board meeting and activities such as taking photos of your 3 favorite/least favorite areas in Town.
- There will be an end of session survey for each of the 4 classes.
- The program is open to Beaufort residents who live within the Town limits.
- Participants must be 18 years old.
- Class size is limited to 15
- Four 2-hour sessions
- Snacks or meals will be served



# Content

- Specific course materials will be shaped by citizen input.
- When registering for the class (May-June), applicants will be asked to fill out a survey that will help staff identify what residents are most interested in learning.
- Prior to starting the academy, participants will be asked to identify what they view as the communities top 3 needs and why.
- The first day, there will be a Local Government 101 quiz. The purpose of the quiz is to help staff and citizens identify areas where communication and knowledge might be lacking.
- Scavenger hunts, collaborative problem solving, games and other interactive activities will be a part of the sessions.



# Proposed Timeline

## Dates/Sessions/Meeting Locations:

- 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, **Aug. 20**, 2019 – Mayor/Board/Administration – Train Depot
- 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26 - Homework: Attend the BOC meeting
- Homework: Attend a HPC (9/3), Planning Board (9/12) or P&R (9/5) meeting
- 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, **Sept. 10**, 2019 –Finance/Planning & Inspections - Town Hall Conference Room
- 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, **Sept. 24**, 2019 –Public Works/Fire – Fire Department
- 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, **Oct. 1**, 2019 – Public Utilities/Police – Public Utilities & Police Department
- 6 p.m. – Monday, Oct. 14, 2019 - Graduation during the BOC meeting