



October 23, 2024

The Town Administration and Council has recently met with representatives from Atlantic Health to discuss their proposed vision for Morristown Medical Center. As with any potential development project, we insisted on a robust public engagement process in advance of any formal action to allow our residents the opportunity to raise concerns and get questions answered. At the request of AHS, those meetings were originally slated to start this week at Town Hall. However, while working to vet their proposal, it became clear that more time was needed before we could comfortably agree to bring this project to the public as many questions remain unanswered. For example, the 200-page traffic study was received by the Town only this morning. We believe it would be irresponsible to move forward with the public engagement process without ensuring that all information has been reviewed by our professionals and available to the public to ensure that they have a complete picture.

Furthermore, a crucial part of the public engagement process is transparency and access which includes ample prior notice to residents to encourage participation and a meeting location that provides easy access to the meeting space. For over a decade the Town has hosted these meetings in Town Hall in our Senior Center or an equivalent public space that our residents can access and participate with ease.

The hospital is an important asset in our community and we look forward to continued dialogue on their proposal.

Respectfully,

Mayor Timothy Dougherty and the Town of Morristown.