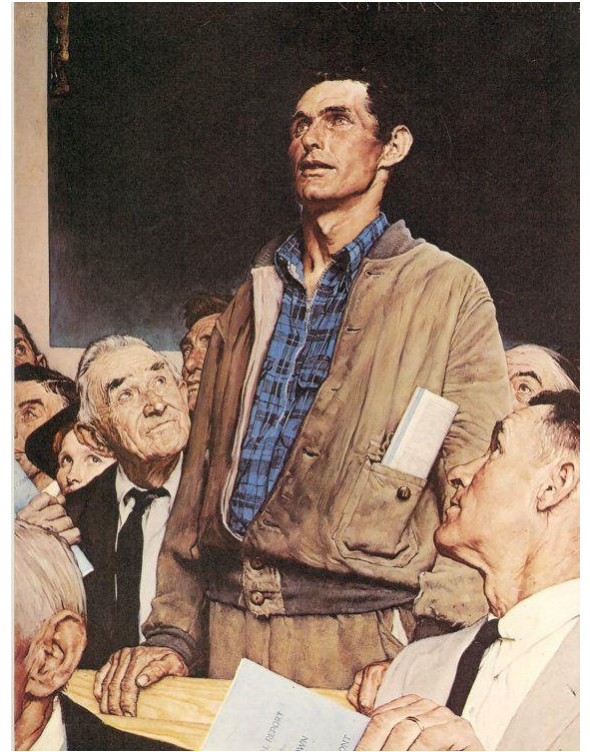


Current Board Policy

“During all regular meetings, time will be set aside for citizens’ petitions and presentation. Citizens may bring up any matter or question of interest without prior notice given to the Board.” Policy Guidelines of the Board of Selectmen, Section 1.6.



Public Comments at Board of Selectmen Meetings

- All regular and special meetings of the Board of Selectmen shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The Board desires citizens of the Town to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and programs of the Town. In addition, the Board would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public.
- In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Board have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Board to conduct the Town's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:
 - 1. At the start of each regularly scheduled Board meeting except workshops, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Board. The Chairperson shall determine the length of the public participation segment.
 - 2. If time permits, speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. The presiding Chairperson may shorten their time limit or may permit extension of this time limit. If a speaker's time is shortened or extended, the same reduction or extension will apply to all speakers who wish to be heard on the same subject without regard to viewpoint.
 - 3. Improper conduct will not be allowed. Remarks containing obscenities, remarks which constitute threats or fighting words, remarks which are likely to provoke a violent reaction, and remarks which are known to be false are considered improper and will not be allowed. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
 - 4. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting.
 - 5. Speakers may offer such criticisms of Town operations and programs as concern them, but in the public comment session the Board will not hear personal complaints regarding Town personnel, except with respect to the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Accountant, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Officers and Registrars of Voters and Department Heads. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving Town employees.
 - 6. Written comments may be presented to the Board at the meeting for the Board members' review and consideration at an appropriate time.