The public is encouraged to participate in the Board of Selectmen's meetings during Citizens' Forum part of the meeting agenda.

The primary purpose of the Board of Selectmen's meetings is to conduct the business of the Town. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the Town. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 91-A:3.

Public participation in the Board's regular meetings is not required under New Hampshire State Law. It is a privilege that the Board has adopted to ensure that people who wish to appear before the Board and either discuss agenda items or who schedule an appointment to bring new matters to its attention may be heard. The purpose is to provide the Board with an opportunity to receive directly from citizens any concerns, desires, or hopes they may have for the community, while keeping the discussions civil, orderly and respecting the rights of others.

A. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes per person to speak to an agenda item, unless extended by consensus of the Board on any matter. Persons wishing to be heard on agenda matters during the meeting must state their full name for the benefit of the minute taker, and state which agenda item they wish to be heard on. People should speak directly to the issue, as briefly and fully as possible. People should be specific about what they want acted upon, if that is the case, by the Board. All questions shall be directed through the chairman.

B. Speakers under the Scheduled "Appointment "section will be limited to five minutes unless extended by a consensus of the Board when scheduling the "appointment".

C. Complaints regarding individual employees, other individuals and/or any matter that may, in the opinion of the Board infringe on another person's rights of privacy will not be allowed, such matters must be directed to the Town Administrator during normal business hours at Town Hall.

D. When addressing the Board, all speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, slanderous, defamatory, disruptive, repetitive, disorderly, or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege to address the Board if the speaker does not follow these rules of order. Any person whose conduct is in violation of the rules set forth above will be ordered to cease and desist such behavior. Should their behavior continue after due warning, they will be asked to leave the meeting room.

E. If a speaker does not follow these rules after being warned to do so by the Board Chair, they shall be removed from the meeting. Persistent violations of these rules may result in loss of the privilege to address the Board.

F. Public Input will be allowed only for items on the agenda. If someone wishes to speak on any other subject, they must first contact the Selectmen's Office in writing to schedule an appointment to address the Board. The written statement shall summarize the topic or subject matter that the person wants to discuss with the Board or bring to the attention of the Board. Scheduling an appointment shall be within the sole discretion of a majority of the Board. If an appointment is granted the person will be placed on the next available agenda.

G. If a group has an announcement such as an upcoming event, please call or email the Town Office with the specifics so it may noted. It will be announced under "Selectmen's announcements".

The reasons for these changes are to streamline the official proceedings of the board. It is also to stop the constant bickering and argumentative nature of recent citizens forum segments. It is not helpful. It is not healthy for the board members nor is it healthy for members of the audience. This is being done to hopefully bring civility, decorum and peace back to the Board meetings. Thank you for your understanding.