

POLICY ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
DURING SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

1. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

All persons, whether town residents or not, have a right under the NH Right-to-Know Law, RSA 91-A, to attend public meetings. They may take notes, photos, or record audio or video, as long they do not disrupt the business of the meeting or block the view of others. These rights are subject to exceptions including nonpublic sessions under RSA 91-A:3, and consultation with legal counsel under RSA A 91-A:2,I(b).

2. ORDER OF MEETINGS

All persons attending must remain quiet and comply with directives from the presiding Chair. No one may speak without permission of the Chair. While Selectboard meetings are open to the public, this does not give anyone a right to speak, only a right to be present and observe. PLEASE NOTE: Those wishing to speak with an audience member shall quietly leave the room to do so.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Public input on business before the Board shall be allowed:

- a. On matters for which State law requires a public hearing;
- b. On agenda items for which the Board, in its discretion, decides to allow public comment; and
- c. Whenever the Board votes to allow a public comment period for items not on the agenda. All public input is subject to permission from the Chair.

4. TIME LIMITS

The Chair may impose a time limit on presentations from an individual or organization. The Chair may also limit each speaker to 2 minutes or such other time as may be reasonable depending on the issue at hand. The Chair may restrict comment from a speaker whose comments exceed the permitted time length, or are not relevant to topic of the public forum. Speakers are requested to avoid personal attacks and use of language or tone that is profane or discourteous.

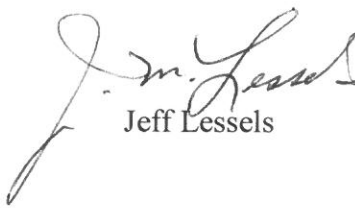
5. AGENDA ITEMS

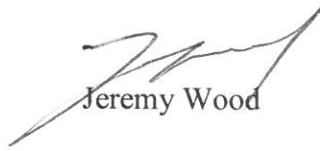
Persons wishing to be heard by the Selectboard on a specific topic may submit a request to add an item to the Selectboard's agenda, in writing to the Board at a prior meeting, or to the Selectboard's Administrator by 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. The request should include the name of the person submitting it, and a brief description of the topic. The Board may, at its discretion, add the item to its agenda, and alter the order of, or delay consideration of, any item on the agenda.

6. ENFORCEMENT

If any person violates these rules, the Board may request assistance of a police officer, who shall inform the person that they are disrupting the orderly conduct of business in violation of law (RSA 644:2,III(b)), and shall order the person to stop the violation immediately, or escort the person out of the meeting.

Charlestown Selectboard

 11/10/2021
Jeff Lessels


Jeremy Wood


Shelly Blouin-Andrus


William Rescsanski

Nancy Houghton

Adopted November 10, 2021