

TOWN OF BRISTOL

RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

Vermont's Open Meeting Law protects the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local public bodies, but the purpose and function of these meetings is for the public body to do the work of the public, they are not meetings of the public (i.e. public forums). Consequently, these rules are necessary to manage the public's participation to ensure an environment in which the public feels safe to express their views on matters considered by the public body while minimizing disruptions so that the public body can get its work done.

1. Please raise your hand to speak.
2. You may only speak after you have been recognized by the chair.
3. Before speaking, please state your name and address for the record.
4. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
5. Comments must be germane to the agenda item being addressed.
6. Comments under "other business" must pertain to the business of the public body.
7. Repetitive and irrelevant comments are not allowed.
8. Please wait your turn; do not interrupt others.
9. Each person will be limited to five minutes of comment. This time may be extended only by permission of the chair. The balance of time not used by each person will expire and cannot be reserved or yielded to another.
10. Each person may only speak once on the same agenda item, time permitting, with the consent of the chair.
11. Those yet to be heard will be given priority over those who have already spoken.
12. You do not have the right to vote on agenda items.
13. Please obey orders and rulings of the chair.
14. Keep your cool. Disruptive people will be asked to leave and removed, if necessary.
15. Listen well, pay attention, and participate.