

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Steven P. Rose, Chairman,
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THE TOWN OF AVON

THE POLICY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to assure that the residents of the Town of Avon embrace the advantage, of speaking at duly posted meetings of the Board of Selectmen. It will also act as a guide to assure that although Public Participation is encouraged and welcomed by the Board of Selectmen, that the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's regarding Open Meetings are followed. The Massachusetts's Attorney General's, Division of Open Meetings has spoken on the subject of Public Participation. The Attorney General has suggested that this be the part of the meeting categorized for public forum or open forum periods. This period of time is," being reserved for topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed".

Encompassing the above reasoning, the Public Participation Section of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting shall operate as follows:

1. There will be a prescribed time set aside at each Board of Selectmen's meeting.
2. This time will be for an individual or a group to address the Board of Selectmen. Should a group desire to speak, the Chair will have the authority to keep the discussion in an orderly fashion, not allowing one member of the group to dominate discussions.
3. This time, is when the above mentioned, may make comments to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen will listen to the comments and or concerns.
4. This time, is not a time that any individual or group may question any member of the Board of Selectmen concerning any particular course or courses of action, that the Board of Selectmen is taking in any action pending or upcoming.
5. This time will not be used for any debates by an individual or group concerning any matters pending or upcoming.
6. All persons wishing to speak must give their names, addresses and if they are representative of any group.
7. All persons wishing to speak will be brief and not in excess of five minutes, unless authorized by the Chair.
8. The speakers are prohibited from voicing complaints of Town Personnel in open session.
9. The speakers may comment on substantive issues.
10. No charges may be leveled against any Town Personnel.
11. The Chair reserves the right to discontinue any individual or group from Public Participation, should it be in violation of this policy.