

## **Guidelines for discussion**

The goal is to provide a framework within which a discussion can occur in a fair, reasonable, and effective manner. Statute provides the ability to set reasonable rules of procedure (1 V.S.A. § 312 (h)).

All members of the public – resident and non-resident alike – must be governed by the same rules.

The guidelines are:

- Comments must have a bearing on the topic of discussion;
- Under no circumstances can any participant engage in a personal attack on anyone else in attendance. The topic of discussion, not the individual(s), is the subject of debate;
- All remarks from the public must be addressed to the Board, specifically the chair;
- Members of the public must first be recognized by the chair, and shall provide a full name and address (community of residence, not specific street or road);
- To the extent practicable, repetitive or dilatory commentary should be avoided;
- Participants are expected to be judicious with speaking time so that everyone may have an opportunity. Two minutes or less per person is preferred;
- Members of the public may be allowed to speak a second or subsequent time, provided that all who wish to speak have had at least one opportunity;
- No “blurting” or interrupting.